

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support the continued operation of public radio station KRNM in the CNMI?

Yes-81

No-26

No opinion-14

Sunday March 2, 2008

INSIDE



Soft Opening

Gentle Brook Cafe, a new restaurant located at the first floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, will hold its soft opening tonight.

LOCAL...Page 8

Weak Dollar

The dollar kept spiraling down Friday, hitting another low against the euro.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Jack for Hillary

Nicholson, who is backing Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for president, took his endorsement to the Internet Saturday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

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CONNECT

Residents get lowest fuel rate this month. **PAGE 3**
1st annual Chamorro event to take place in Guam. **PAGE 7**

New budget bill sets govt resources at \$167.48M

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new \$167.48 million budget is now before the Legislature for consideration.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, introduced the long overdue appropriation bill on Friday.

The bill appropriates \$164.25

million for all government agencies under the General Fund and \$3.23 million for the Department of Public Lands, which is funded by income from leases of public lands.

In addition, the bill distributes \$5.117 million of Compact Impact funds, or reimbursement money from the federal government to the CNMI for hosting Micronesian citizens.

The budget will apply to the current fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2007 to Sept. 30, 2008.

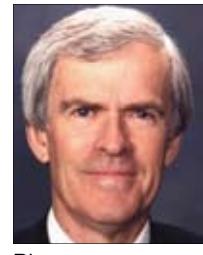
Under the budget bill, the Ex-

See **NEW** on Page 4

US SENATE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S PROMISE Fast action to halt wage hikes

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate committee in charge of U.S. insular affairs has vowed to act quickly on a federal bill suspending further increases in the minimum wage in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.



Bingaman

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Affairs, said that his panel will review the testimonies submitted on the minimum wage and refine the

bill halting future hikes.

"We will work quickly. I realize that the time constraints are very real," Bingaman said before the wage hearing in Washington, D.C. on Thursday.

The next scheduled minimum wage increase will go into effect on May 25, 2008.

During the hearing, the committee heard testimonies from

See **FAST** on Page 4

GCA student wins bee

out champion spellers from the Marianas and Palau to be crowned as the best-of-the-best in the region.

Nine rounds of grueling competition eventually came down to one word: "ambitious."

See **GCA** on Page 4

out champion spellers from the Marianas and Palau to be crowned as the best-of-the-best in the region.

Nine rounds of grueling competition eventually came down to one word: "ambitious."

See **GCA** on Page 4

New interest in Miura case did not happen overnight

By THOMAS WATKINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



REDONDO BEACH, California (AP)—The initial account of the 1981 shoot-

ing seemed to pass muster with Los Angeles detectives: A Japanese couple on vacation in California were shot during a downtown robbery.

See **INTEREST** on Page 4

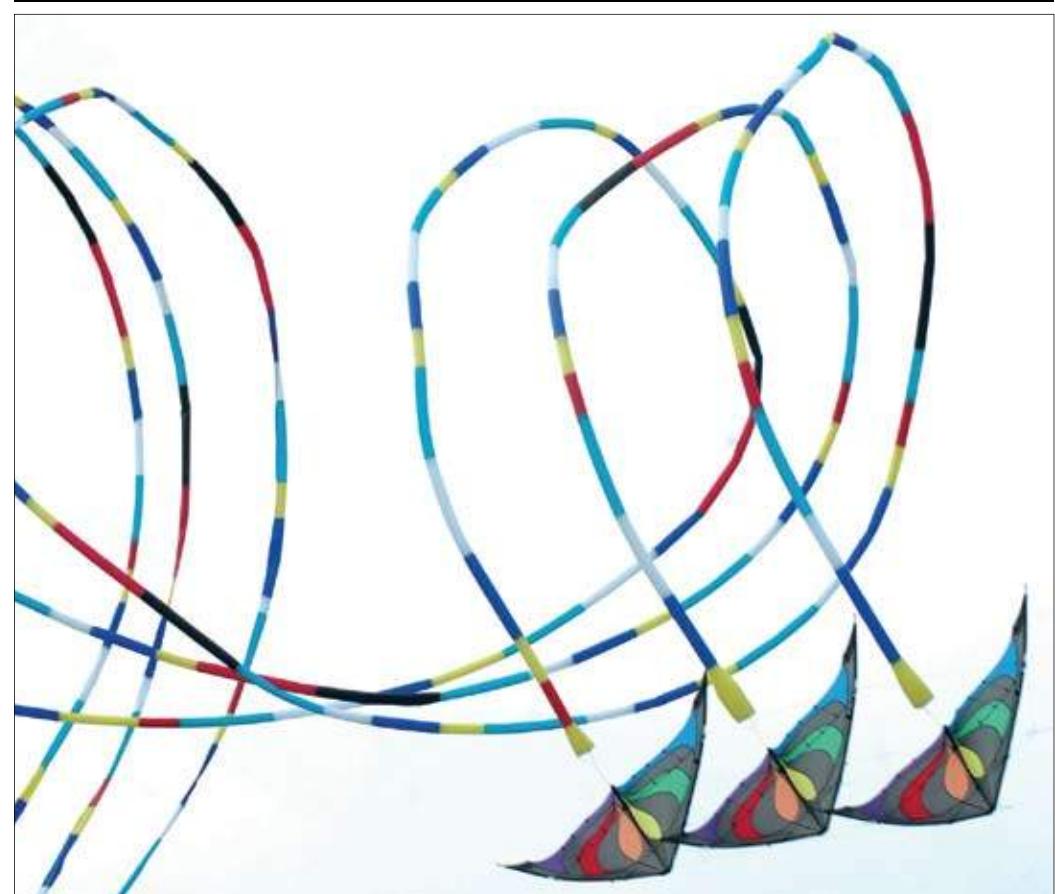
RELATED NEWS

'Miura's extradition is just a matter of time'

PAGE 5

MID-AIR BALLET

A giant kite dances in mid-air during the Korea Kitefliers Association's ballet kite demonstration at the 3rd Annual Marianas Wind Kite Festival and Cultural Food Fair at the American Memorial Park Center Ball Field Saturday. See **related story and more pictures on Page 2**.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Local

Giant kites star attraction at 3rd kite festival

Three members of the Korea Kitefliers Association showed local kitefliers how they do it in South Korea during the 3rd Annual Marianas Wind Kite Festival and Cultural Food Fair, held at the American Memorial Park Center Ball Field Saturday.

Korea Kitefliers Association president Kitai Rhee, director Hakwon Kim and member Seung Jin Rhee showed off techniques used in flying a giant kite with an amazing ballet kite demonstration that wowed the crowd of spectators.

The organizers also handed out several prizes. Among them, Cid Mostales took home the prize for the smallest kite with his 2x2-inch plastic kite, while 6-year-old John Robert Tam won the Most Original and Most Beautiful Kite prizes with his kite made from newspapers.

Before the festival, Rhee and Kim conducted two workshops at the Brilliant Star School on Navy Hill on Thursday and Friday to teach children how to make a kite. (*Saipan Tribune*)



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Korea Kitefliers Association president Kitai Rhee, director Hakwon Kim and member Seung Jin Rhee maneuver the giant kite during their ballet kite demonstration at the 3rd Annual Marianas Wind Kite Festival and Cultural Food Fair at the American Memorial Park Center Ball Field Saturday.

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Smallest kite winner Cid Mostales displays his 2x2-inch plastic kite during the event.



Children also spent their time at the Sand Art painting booth.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



3rd Annual Marianas Wind Kite Festival organizers and Korea Kitefliers Association officials and members gather for a photo with the winners of the kite festival.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Six-year-old John Robert Tam displays his kite made from newspapers.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Scores of colorful kites dotted the skies over American Memorial Park Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Residents get lowest fuel rate this month

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has good news for residential customers: The residential fuel rate for March is back to the lowest 17.6 cents per kilowatt-hour.

According to CUC's schedule of electric charges and rates re-

'Get moving on Rota casino industry'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota mayor has been urged to get moving with the establishment of a casino industry on the island.

Vincent Calvo, a member of the Rota Municipal Council, said that local residents and potential investors were concerned about the delay.

Rota voters ratified the casino initiative in the November 2007 election. To date, Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos has not submitted his nominations for the casino commission. The appointments require the consent of the Rota Municipal Council.

"It has been over a month since the Municipal Council has been sworn in and even longer since the people passed this landmark legislation, yet nothing has been accomplished to implement the casino initiative. Our residents have been approaching me inquiring as to why there has been no progress. Potential investors have contacted wondering why they are unable to invest yet," Calvo told the mayor in a letter.

"I am sure you share my feeling that our people certainly could use some economic relief and the time for work is now," he added.

The casino initiative creates a Rota Casino Gaming Commission made up of five members. The Rota mayor, with the consent of the Rota Municipal Council, will appoint the commissioners. Each commissioner will be paid \$60,000 a year.

There will be no restrictions on the total number of casino licenses that may be issued, or the number of casinos that a person or a group may own or operate on Rota.

The license application fee may cost up to \$100,000 and an annual license fee may not exceed \$200,000 for the first license year.

A Rota gaming tax equivalent to 5 percent of the gross gaming revenue will also be collected from casino operators.

A total of 1,095 voters approved casino gambling on Rota, and 187 voted against it. The number of "yes" votes represents 70 percent of the 1,564 registered voters, and 85 percent of the voter turnout on Rota. The initiative needed only two-thirds of the registered voters to pass.

leased by the utility agency's Betty Diaz, the 17.6 cents per kWh fuel rate will be implemented due to Public Law 15-94.

The fuel rate, however, for businesses, government agencies, and non-conforming load customers will be at 28.8 cents per kWh.

The rates pursuant to P.L. 15-94 take effect as the CNMI administration's emergency regulations had already expired.

Under the March electric fuel rates, the rates for residential customers will be 17.6 cents per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh and 22 cents per kWh for over 1,000

kWh. In addition, residential customers will be paying a fixed rate of \$3.50 in customer charges per month.

Businesses will be paying the fixed 8.6 cents for electric non-fuel rate and 28.8 cents for electric fuel rate, for a total of 37.4 cents on all kWh billed. In addition, businesses will be assessed a fixed monthly customer charge of \$7.67.

Government agencies will be charged 9.1 cents for electric non-fuel rate and 28.8 cents for electric fuel rate, for a total of 37.4 cents on all kWh billed. Government agencies also pay

an additional monthly customer charge of \$7.67.

For non-conforming load, they will be paying 22.2 cents electric non-fuel rate and 28.8 cents electric fuel rate, for a total of 51 cents on all kWh billed. On top of it, they will be assessed a fixed monthly

customer charge of \$56.

Last month, the fuel rates decreased to 25.3 cents per kilowatt-hour from 25.8 cents per kWh in January.

Residential customers first experienced the lowest fuel rates in October 2007 when P.L. 15-94 took effect, putting a cap on pow-

er rates at 17.6 cents per kWh.

With the administration's signing of emergency regulations on Nov. 9, 2007, the electric fuel rates for residential customers jumped from 17.6 cents per kWh to the highest ever 25.8 cents per kWh from that month until January 2008.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2008

CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES FIXED)	RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh)		
		ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATES (FIXED)	ELECTRIC FUEL RATES (FLUCTUATES)	TOTAL RATES PER kWh
RESIDENTIAL First 1,000 kWh Over 1,000 kWh	\$ 3.50 \$ 0.044	\$ 0.000 \$ 0.044	\$ 0.176 0.176	\$ 0.176 0.220
COMMERCIAL (All kWh Billed)	\$ 7.67	\$ 0.086	\$ 0.288	\$ 0.374
GOVERNMENT (All kWh Billed)	\$ 7.67	\$ 0.091	\$ 0.288	\$ 0.379
NON-CONFORMING LOAD (All kWh Billed)	\$ 56.00	\$ 0.222	\$ 0.288	\$ 0.510

HISTORY OF ELECTRIC FUEL RATES:

JANUARY 2007	\$ 0.196	SEPTEMBER 2007	\$ 0.228
FEBRUARY 2007	\$ 0.188	OCTOBER 2007 (RES)	\$ 0.176
MARCH 2007	\$ 0.188	OCTOBER 2007	\$ 0.228
APRIL 2007	\$ 0.191	NOVEMBER 2007	\$ 0.258
MAY 2007	\$ 0.222	DECEMBER 2007	\$ 0.258
JUNE 2007	\$ 0.221	JANUARY 2008	\$ 0.258
JULY 2007	\$ 0.223	FEBRUARY 2008	\$ 0.253
AUGUST 2007	\$ 0.223		

Due to Public Law 15-94, the residential fuel rate will be 17.6 cents per kilowatt-hour. All other classifications, the fuel rate will be 28.8 cents per kilowatt-hour.

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BRIDGE CAPITAL NEWS



Bridge Capital, LLC, a financial services company located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has granted a \$4.1 million dollar credit facility to Onomea Bay, LLC of Hawaii. The Company is developing 165 acres of oceanfront property on Oahu into a unique set of 20+ acre estates on a portion of the Old Cambell Estate land in Kuhuku, near Turtle Bay. Bridge Capital congratulates Brett Crowder and everyone involved in this exciting project. We wish them every success!

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**BRIDGE
CAPITAL**

Bill: Let CUC pay for cost of lawsuits

A bill has been proposed in the House of Representatives to require Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to pay for the costs of lawsuits won against it by customers.

Rep. Joseph N. Camacho, an attorney by profession, says more lawyers will be willing to take on CUC cases if costs and attorney's fees are shifted to the corporation.

The proposed legislation will become law once approved by the House and Senate, and signed by the governor.

In the bill, Camacho notes that often CUC customers have valid and legitimate concerns. But CUC customers tend to forego pursuing the issue because the amount being contested is nominal. Another reason is the customers cannot afford to hire a lawyer

or even find one who would be able to take on the case.

Camacho said this fosters and perpetuates an atmosphere where complaints are unresolved.

"The Legislature also finds that when customers have valid and legitimate complaints regardless of that amount, it should be brought to light. Only through these processes, albeit difficult and litigious, that CUC can address these matters," states the bill. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

USS FRANK CABLE

Members of the Cultural Production Inc II perform a traditional Carolinian dance number to welcome the 6th visit of the USS *Frank Cable* (AS-40) at the Port of Saipan Friday afternoon. The ship, which is home to approximately 1,300 crewmembers, is set to depart today after a rest and recreation activity on the island with their family. It is headed by its commanding officer Capt. Patrick Scanlon and is homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



INTEREST

From Page 1

bry by an unknown assailant.

It was a bold daylight attack, with the shooter firing from a car—but a crime not uncommon for this city. Police officers initially viewed Kazuyoshi Miura and his wife, Kazumi Miura, as victims.

Still, something didn't seem right to Los Angeles police Detective Jimmy Sakoda and several colleagues.

"There were some big question marks," Sakoda said Saturday, speaking at a news conference 20 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. "Really, what happened? Who are these people?"

In Sakoda's version of the events that day, Miura conspired with an assassin to have his wife killed so he could collect a hefty life insurance payout.

Now 72 and retired, Sakoda spent years investigating the shooting. Though he has rarely spoken about it in public, the case became his life's work. Almost three decades after the shooting, Sakoda may finally see his theory tested in a U.S. court.

Miura was recently arrested on a trip to the U.S. territory of Saipan, on warrants Sakoda and others crafted in May 1988. He is awaiting extradition to California to face murder and conspiracy charges.

The 60-year-old clothing importer was originally prosecuted in Japan, with Tokyo authorities working closely with Sakoda and others in the U.S. to

put together a case. He was convicted of murder in 1994 and sentenced to life in prison, but that verdict was eventually overturned because of problems with the evidence.

The U.S. and most state constitutions prohibit double jeopardy—trying someone more than once for the same crime. In 2004, however, California legislators passed a law that allows someone tried in another country to stand trial here for the same crime.

Miura's lawyer, Shinichiro Hironaka, has said he will ask the Japanese government not to help U.S. investigators because the case has been closed in Japan.

Sakoda said he kept tabs on Miura's whereabouts over the years, periodically checking to make sure his arrest warrant was still active. He suggested several possible explanations about why Japanese prosecutors were unable to make the conviction stick.

One reason, he said, was that the case was evaluated by judges, not by jurors. He also suggested Japanese judges at various levels of the appeals process may not have scrutinized the evidence as thoroughly as they should have. This may have been in part because over time, the investigative paperwork had become overwhelming.

And unlike in the U.S., the Japanese legal system did not allow for the prosecution of a conspiracy charge under certain circumstances.

"We've always felt that we had a very strong case, and the Japanese felt they had an uphill battle," Sakoda said.

the U.S. Department of Labor, testified on the department's report on the economic impact of the first wage increase on the CNMI and American Samoa economies. Nikolao Pula, acting deputy assistant secretary of insular affairs, also testified.

American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega said he was open to suggestions on how to strengthen his bill, which proposes to condition further wage hikes in the CNMI and American Samoa on a determination by the Department of Labor that such increases will not have an adverse impact on the economies of the places.

Public Works \$5.08 million; Finance \$6.1 million; Commerce \$1.01 million; Lands and Natural Resources \$2.95 million; and Community and Cultural Affairs \$2.77 million.

The Legislative Branch will receive \$6.42 million, including \$1.53 million for the Senate, \$3.19 million for the House of Representatives, and \$1.60 million for the Legislative Bureau. Each lawmaker will get \$105,000 in

The case is of fierce media interest in Japan, and reporters have been making frequent visits to Sakoda's home in Cerritos, a quiet suburb in southeast Los Angeles County. Sakoda said he hoped reporters would grant him more privacy now that he had spoken publicly.

"It's the equivalent of the O.J. Simpson trial in Japan," said Rene Chen, a staff writer with Japan's Kyodo News agency.

At the time, the Los Angeles Police Department's major crimes unit initially seemed to believe Miura, who has all along denied involvement in his wife's death. Sakoda said police had issued an alert for two "hippie-type" men Miura claimed were responsible for the killing.

"To be honest, it was not really done with any effort," Sakoda said of the LAPD's investigation at the time.

The case could have been abandoned were it not for Sakoda's persistence, according to Ira Reiner, the district attorney at the time. After Sakoda retired from the LAPD in 1985, he joined Reiner's office as an investigator, for which one of his first orders of business was to re-energize the Miura case.

Meanwhile, in Japan, the media had also treated Miura with sympathy until a series of blistering news articles was published in 1984. They said Miura had taken out two life insurance policies on his wife in 1981 and a separate travel insurance policy.

Miura reportedly collected hundreds of thousands of dollars on the poli-

cies. In addition, an adult-film actress who claimed to be Miura's lover told a Japanese newspaper that Miura had hired her to kill his wife at their hotel on a trip to L.A. three months before the shootings.

In 1985, Miura was arrested in Japan on suspicion of assaulting his wife with intent to kill her for insurance money in the hotel incident. An indictment said he asked the actress Michiko Yazawa to kill his wife with a hammer-like instrument, and he was eventually convicted of attempted murder.

While serving a six-year sentence for the attempted murder, Miura was charged and convicted under Japanese law with his wife's murder. But in 1998, that sentence was overturned by a Japanese high court.

In overturning the murder conviction, the Tokyo High Court raised doubts about the evidence, which was largely circumstantial.

"The prosecution's claims do have substantial reason to make the defendant guilty," they wrote in their decision. "But they still leave a reasonable doubt to fully make the defendant guilty."

For his part, Sakoda believes the case is as strong as it was 20 years ago.

"In terms of new evidence, I don't think that has to be a major concern," Sakoda said. "The warrant will stand by itself."

Associated Press writers Mari Yamaguchi and Chisaki Watanabe in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Her comment followed Berman's testimony on the lack of labor market data available on American Samoa and the CNMI.

Federal minimum wage law applied to American Samoa and the Northern Marianas last year. Prior to that, the CNMI determined its own minimum wage, and a special industry committee set the minimum wage for the American Samoa.

The initial increases of 50 cents went into effect on July 24, 2007, in American Samoa and July 25, 2007, in the Commonwealth. In addition, minimum wages to the islands will increase by 50

GCA

From Page 1

According to a *Pacific Daily News* report, Mamaril did not draw too much attention during the early rounds as she was quiet and focused but when she heard the last word she would have to spell, "her face glowed with relief and her bottled emotion came out."

"I've heard that word so many times. I've used that word so many times. I thought, 'I know this word' ... If you saw me, I was like 'oh, thank God!'" Mamaril told PDN.

Mamaril told the Guam newspaper that she had been studying since January. This was her third year in the bee.

PDN said that, based on its files, the last time a speller from Saipan won the regional competition was in 1998.

Mamaril now goes to the Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 29 in Washington, D.C., where she will compete against hundreds of elementary and middle schools students from across the nation.

Besides Mamaril, other Saipan representatives also did well at the competition. The PDN report said that 55 students participated and, of this, 18 were from Saipan. Of the top 10 spellers, five were from Saipan. Of the final three, two were.

Second place was awarded to Sandra Reyes Haber of Santa Barbara Catholic School in Dededo.

Mark Anthony Liban from Marianas Baptist Academy on Saipan was awarded third place. Fourth-place winner was Simon Jed Nescito, an eighth-grade student at Hopwood Junior High School.

The PDN report quoted spelling bee coordinator Carmelita Blas as saying that Saipan's impressive showing at Saturday's bee was no surprise.

"You can really tell the other islands have become more determined to win," she said. "They really get behind their kids and support them."

The competition also included three spellers from Rota, two from Tinian and two from Palau. Winners of both the 2005 and 2007 regional competitions were from Rota.

The regional event was sponsored by the *Pacific Daily News*, the Rotary Club of Guam, Continental Airlines and the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. *(Saipan Tribune)*

cents until they reach the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

For the CNMI, the minimum wage was increased by 50 cents an hour to \$3.55 on July 25, 2007, and will rise to \$7.25 an hour by 2015.

For American Samoa, current minimum wages vary by industry, with the most significant being the minimum wage for the tuna canning industry, which is currently \$3.76 an hour, reflecting the initial 50-cent increase on July 24, 2007. The minimum wage for American Samoa will increase across the board to \$7.25 an hour by 2014.

The proposed budget for Saipan is \$1.37 million. Rota and Tinian will get \$7.27 million each.

The \$5.117-million Compact aid is distributed as follows: \$2 million for PSS, \$1.24 million for Public Health, \$1 million for Public Safety, \$420,000 for Corrections, \$307,437 for NMC, \$100,000 for the Division of Youth Services, and \$50,000 for the Public Defender's Office.

FAST

From Page 1

government officials from the CNMI and American Samoa.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio spoke on behalf of the Commonwealth. Fitial opposed any further increases to the local minimum wage. Tenorio proposed to cap the hourly rate at \$4.05, the expected level after the implementation of the second increase, and keep it at that level for two years.

Jay Berman, a senior economist with

NEW

From Page 1

executive Branch will get \$82.44 million. This includes the Governor's Office, Office of the Attorney General, and the departments. Specifically, Public Health will receive \$39.91 million; Labor \$1.93 million; Public Safety \$9.7 million; Corrections \$3.4 million;

discretionary funds, on top of their salaries. An additional allocation of \$175,000 each is given to the House speaker and the Senate president for the expenses of the standing committees and other operations.

The Judicial Branch is allocated \$4.59 million, including \$1.01 million for the Supreme Court and \$2.43 million for the Superior Court.

The Washington Representative's

Office will receive \$900,000 for its offices in the Northern Marianas and in the nation's capital.

The autonomous agencies funded by the central government is allocated a total of \$51.74 million. This includes \$36.7 million for the Public School System, \$7.46 million for the Marianas Visitors Authority, and \$6.75 million for the Northern Marianas College.



PATHWAY ACCIDENT

A Seafix staff helps the owner of the light blue Toyota pickup truck with plate number ACD 777 in retrieving the truck after it swerved into the Beach Road Pathway and onto the beach in front of the VFW Post on Beach Road, Garapan Saturday.

'Miura extradition just a matter of time'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The arrest of Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura on Saipan was lawful and his extradition to Los Angeles is just a matter of time, according to chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield.

Warfield said he is confident that the arrest of the 60-year-old Miura on Feb. 22 was legal and, based on CNMI extradition laws, the defendant will surely be extradited to LA.

"The question is not if but when," Warfield told Japanese and local media at a news briefing Friday afternoon at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Meanwhile, Miura's lead counsel Bruce Berline, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that whether or not Miura agrees to be extradited will be known today, Monday, at the status conference in the Superior Court.

"That's his choice, so we are conferring with him and taking the necessary steps to make sure that his wishes are met," Berline said.

Warfield described the extradition process as "not a very complex matter."

It has to be decided first if a crime was committed in the state of California, he said.

"We have an arrest warrant indicating that there was a murder in 1981," he pointed out.

The final question is whether Miura is the same person named in that warrant.

Warfield said they certainly know that Miura and the person named in the warrant have the same date of birth.

"I believe you've seen the affidavit. There's been some acknowledgment by him that he was familiar with the circumstances and I don't think we're going to have problems with identification," he said.

With respect to the LA Police



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Corrections officers shield Kazuyoshi Miura from being swarmed by Japanese and local media as he exits the courtroom of the CNMI Superior Court in Susupe Monday afternoon.

Attorney General Matthew Gregory said it is hard to say at this point whether Miura and his counsel intend to waive extradition.

"It depends on what his attorneys act on that day [Monday]," Gregory said.

Warfield said they will ask Miura today, in the presence of his attorneys, if he agrees to be extradited.

"If he says yes, we will notify California. If he says no, we will notify California that they need to continue processing all the

paperwork," he said.

On the unlawful arrest issue, Warfield said that chief public defender Adam Hardwicke cited during the first hearing some portions of the extradition statute related to arresting a fugitive with a warrant.

Warfield said Hardwicke failed to cite the portion of the statute that allows a foreign arrest without a warrant.

"And I pointed that out to the court and the court agreed based on that that the arrest was lawful," he said.

Warfield said there is no specific timeframe for these kinds of cases. "Some would be resolved in a matter of days... sometimes a few weeks, sometimes a few months. Each case is different. There is no set timeframe," he said.

Local authorities arrested Miura as he was about to depart the Saipan international airport on Feb. 22. He was arrested for the murder of his wife in LA 27 years ago.

The Superior Court set no bail for his temporary liberty. The CNMI government has filed an extradition complaint against him.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 for the killing of his wife, Kazumi Miura. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Public Participation Requirement

CNMI Public School System, Special Education & Early Intervention Program

Pursuant to Part B & Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Public School System Special Education & Early Intervention Program is required to provide a 60 day circulation notice of its Part B & Part C Grant Application and a 30 day comment period from the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of special education children & infants and toddlers with disabilities.

- Part B (Special Education) Public Circulation Period: March 12, 2008 thru May 10, 2008
- Public Comment Period: March 24, 2008 thru April 23, 2008
- Part C (Early Intervention) Public Circulation Period: March 3, 2008 thru May 1, 2008
- Public Comment Period: March 17, 2008 thru April 15, 2008

Copies of the Grant Application are available from Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm at the following locations:

Office of Special Education Program - 237-3029
Children's Developmental Assistance (C*DAC) - 664-4830

You can also access the Grant Application on the PSS Web-Site at:
Part B: <http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/PSSCentralOffice/index.cfm?pageID=75>
Part C: <http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/PSSCentralOffice/index.cfm?pageID=91>

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-3774, or hand delivered to the Office of Special Education Program located on the 2nd floor of the Retirement Bldg., Capitol Hill, or phone in your comments to:

Special Education Program (670) 237-3029
Children's Dev. Assistance Center (670) 664-4830

For more information, please contact Ms. Suzanne W. Lizama - Program Coordinator at (670) 237-3029.



"Fishing for eyeballs"

That's what Henry must have been doing on that sunny Saturday morning at the reef, because that's what he caught. An eyeball. As he cast the fishing line, he hooked his daughter Natalie's left eye. Not good. Using advanced microsurgical techniques, Marianas Eye Institute's Dr. David Khorram performed the delicate surgery that removed the hook and saved Dominic's vision.

If we can handle a fishhook in little Natalie's eye, then surely we can help your kids when they need glasses.



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9:00am to 7:30pm • Monday through Saturday
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13th Fishermen Monument

Dr. David Khorram, MD
America's Top Ophthalmologists
Dr. Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude

2 Tinian residents sue over car smashup

Two Tinian residents have filed a lawsuit over the injuries that they suffered during a vehicular accident allegedly caused by an employee of a hotel on Saipan last year.

Arturo Montecillo and Vio-

leta Guiao sued the driver, Bartolome C. Baysauli, and Inter Pacific Resorts (Saipan), owner of Pacific Islands Club, for negligence and liability.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Victorino DLG. Tor-

res, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay them damages.

Torres stated in the complaint that on Sept. 29, 2007, Guiao was driving a 1994 Toyota sedan with Montecillo as a pas-

senger along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau.

While plaintiffs were proceeding straight on the traffic, Baysauli, who was driving a 2003 Toyota owned by PIC, turned left and entered the on-

coming traffic.

Torres said the defendant's negligent driving violated common-law negligence as well as Commonwealth statute.

"As a direct and proximate result of defendant Baysauli's negli-

gence and recklessness and upon collision, plaintiffs were thrown out about the interior dashboard and suffered immediate shock, trauma, pain and suffering, emotion distress, mental anguish and diminished quality of life, economic and non-economic damages to which plaintiffs are entitled to full compensation," the lawyer said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Woman in human smuggling case gets 19 days in prison

The Superior Court has imposed a 19-day prison term on a woman who was one of 12 persons rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard from a stranded boat 20 nautical miles northwest of Guam last year.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Yanong Lin Doone to two years in prison, all suspended except for 19 days, for improper entry into the U.S. by an alien.

Following a plea agreement, Manglona gave the 37-year-old Doone credit for the 19 days she

has already served.

Doone will be placed on two years probation and was required to pay \$100 in court assessment fee.

The defendant shall be deported from the CNMI at her own expense within 30 days, the judge said.

Manglona said Doone shall surrender any ownership interest, if any, in the seized boat and trailer.

Immigration inspector Erwin Flores stated in court papers that the 11 Chinese nationals, includ-

ing Doone, had no passports in their possession, nor did they have any type of visa authorizing them to enter Guam.

The pilot, Edwin F. Blanilla, was supposed to drop the Chinese off so they could enter Guam. In exchange for dropping them off, he was to receive the boat as payment.

Blanilla planned to sell the boat and then return to the Philippines.

It was Blanilla, however, who called for assistance from authorities when the boat's engine died. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

ing

1st annual Chamorro event to take place in Guam

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Association of Mariana Islands Mayor has unanimously adopted an annual event to bring together the islands in the Marianas to celebrate and recognize the Chamorro culture and share it throughout the community.

The Ekuturan Chamorro will be AMIM's first sponsored event.

The socio-cultural development committee, chaired by Agana Heights Mayor Paul M. McDonald, deliberated and suggested the idea for the event.

The committee's responsibility includes seeing ways of preserving, exchanging and expanding on the culture and tradition aspects of the people of the Marianas.

According to Yigo Mayor Robert Lizama, the event will focus on local talents such as dancing, singing, arts and crafts, to name a few.

A similar event called the Micronesian Festival is held in Guam every year. The event includes all cultures throughout Micronesia, including the Federated States of Micronesia and Yap. However, with the newly created Ekuturan Chamorro event, it will focus on the Chamorro culture.

"The event will be about bringing all the Chamorros in the Marianas together in one place and sharing the culture with the people," said Lizama.

"We want to express to our children what the Chamorro culture is all about and we want to [convey] to our seniors that we are still proud of our culture,"

Live-fire training at Farralon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, issued an alert yesterday that the U.S. military would be conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla this week.

The first training will be held March 3 – 4, from 8am to 8pm, while the second one will be on March 7, also from 8am to 8pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Lizama said.

According to Bill Torres, who serves as a facilitator for the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council,

"[the event aims] is to underscore the importance of the Chamorro culture."

According to the group, the event could also be used to raise

funds to keep the AMIM scholarship program alive.

Torres said the scholarship program is the first signature project of the AMIM organization.

Guam is expected to host the first annual Ekuturan Chamorro event in March 2009 to coincide with Chamorro month.

From there, the event will



March at the Hyatt Regency Saipan



Lent Specials

To mark this season of lent our talented chefs have created special menus and selections using the freshest seafood and vegetables.

Teppanyaki

Indulge in a specially prepared menu with seafood selections by Chef Joe. Set Menu is available from February 20th till March 21st

Miyako

In addition to its regular menu selections Miyako offers some delicious seafood options on the charcoal grill.

Available from February 20th till March 21st

Giovanni's

Try our perfectly prepared seafood set menu at Giovanni's. Set Menu is available from February 20th till March 21st

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



Celebrating Easter at the Hyatt

The warm and wonderful season of Easter begins at Hyatt with a display of our big and colorful Easter Egg at the lobby on March 19th.

Easter Brunch at Giovanni's and Kili Cafe & Terrace

Easter Brunch at Giovanni's and Kili Cafe & Terrace shall offer an assortment of culinary delights, sure to provide an unforgettable dining experience.

Join us in celebrating Easter Sunday, along with a very special guest who will hop in just for the occasion, the Easter Bunny!

Sunday, March 23rd, 2008
10:30am - 2:00pm
\$40.00 per person

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



May St. Patrick bless your way!

Raise an Irish toast to your family and friends on St. Patrick's Day! Warm their hearts with an Irish blessing and wind down the evening with the traditional "Drowning of the Shamrock".

Enjoy Irish Specials on our dinner buffet in Kili Cafe & Terrace
Saturday, March 15th, 2008
6:00pm - 10:00pm
\$35.00 per person

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

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be held each year on a rotating basis on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

McDonald said that the committee will start coordinating with airlines and making plans to ensure a successful debut of the event.

New resto holds soft opening tonight

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gentle Brook Café, a new restaurant located at the first floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, will hold its soft opening tonight.

Business partners Yoshiro Kishimoto and Jim Davies said investors for the fine dining, family-oriented restaurant have plunked down \$250,000 for Gentle Brook, which was named after a famous soup in Japan that translates roughly to "gently soup" in English.

Restaurant manager Satoko Kishimoto said Gentle Brook comfortably seats 100 people and serves international cuisine. Its executive chef, Kazuo Kobayashi, boasts of over 30 years experience as a chef, with 10 of those spent on Saipan. Including Kobayashi and Satoko, Gentle Brook is staffed by 16.

Satoko said she and Kobayashi would like patrons to try their one-of-a-kind gratin dishes—chicken, shrimp, and crab.

Gratin is a type of casserole dish covered with white sauce and topped with breadcrumbs or cheese; either broiled or baked.

Gentle Brook is also proud of its signature Gentle Brook Hamburger Steak—1-lb. of Angus beef patty with a special seasoning blend—as well as its Chicken sauté Demiglace, chicken sauté fried lightly with oil in a shallow, open pan.

Satoko said Gentle Brook also offers generous space for large families as it occu-



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gentle Brook Café management and staff pose in front of the island's newest restaurant at the first floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

pies over 5,100 square feet on the first floor of the former Nauru Building.

Yoshiro said he and his investment partners decided to open a restaurant on Saipan because they want an establishment with a family atmosphere that serves healthy food to locals and tourists alike.

Davies, for his part, said Gentle Brook is unlike other dining places on Saipan because it has a homey feel to it. He even said that the dining experience at Gentle Brook is akin to eating in fine dining restaurants in Singapore, Hong Kong, and Manila.

Despite its elegant interior and exquisite furniture, Gentle Brook is quite light on the wallet as its entrees range in price from \$8 to \$30.

Yoshiro and Davies said



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The interior of the Gentle Brook Café is an elegant combination of Asian and European elements.

Gentle Brook will initially open from 6pm to 10pm, but will eventually adopt a broken shift of 10am-2:30pm for lunch and 6pm-10pm. It will also accept catering in the near future.

For reservations, call Gentle Brook at 234-CAFFÉ.

Gentle Brook Café is the first foray in the CNMI market of Biz Aid Saipan, a local business consulting company.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Parenting, childhood disorders seminar today

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be celebrating March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year's theme is "SUCCESS-When Doors Open- We succeed!"

Today, March 3, 2008, CGC psychiatrist Dr. Willie Gutowski will conduct a presentation on Normal Parenting Issue and Common Childhood Disorders. All parents and teachers are encouraged to take this opportunity to attend this presentation.

To register, call the Council office at 664-7000/7001/7003/7005/7041 or fax registration form to 664-7030. (PR)

Tinian community marks 'Read Across America' today

The children of Tinian, in conjunction with National Education Association, will be celebrating today, March 3, 2008, the annual event called "Read Across America," a national literacy movement dedicated to reaching out to all readers of ages and cultures.

To kick off the year-long

reading program, each school-aged child will receive 4-6 books. These books were donated by First Book except for the shipping costs. The books were distributed throughout the schools on Tinian with the help of parent and community volunteers. The culminating event for the first month will be on April 12, 2008.

If you have a child that has not received any books or if you want to volunteer, contact Ofelia Khan or Maria H. Aguon at Northern Marianas College at 433-0658 or Frances H. Diaz at 433-3800 or email: diazfrancesh@hotmail.com. The books will be packed and delivered to your home. (PR)

Fishery council sets meeting today

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene today, March 3, 2008, 9am to 5pm, and tomorrow, March 4, 8:30am to 5pm, at the Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu.

The SSC will discuss and may make recommendations to the Council regarding management of non-longline

pelagic fisheries, Hawaii bottomfish fishery and longline fishery for swordfish, Marianas archipelago longline and purse-seine closed areas, and American Samoa longline program modification and purse-seine closed area.

The Council is the policy-making agency for fisheries management in federal waters (generally, 3 to 200 miles offshore) of the U.S. Pacific Islands. For more information and agenda, go to www.wpcouncil.org, ph. (808) 522-8220 or email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov. (PR)

Developmental disabilities awareness month

The Tinian Disability Coalition said that Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month activities have already begun with a Thanksgiving Mass on March 1, 2008, at the San Jose Church. The event will continue with workshops on March 5-6, 2008 at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. The activities will end on Saturday, March 8 with a Buddy Walk and picnic afterwards at Tachogna Beach. All families and friends are encouraged to participate. These events are sponsored

by the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Council, CNMI Cancer Association and First Lady's Vision. Call CNMI DD Council at 664-7000 or Community Outreach Program at 433-2683. (PR)

Zoning Board solicits suggested changes to zoning law

The Zoning Board said that it will soon be evaluating suggestions for changes to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. A draft package of proposed changes will be circulated for public review, revised, and then forwarded to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for their consideration.

The public can help the Board by sending recommendations for changing the Zoning Law text or maps (rezones) by March 14. Submit recommendations to staff@zoning.gov.mp, or mail or deliver them to the Zoning Office.

Copies of the law are available at the zoning website (www.zoning.gov.mp) or can be viewed or purchased from the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan. The Zoning Office will be pleased to answer any questions about the law. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 03, 2000

OIA will not intervene in power project controversy

The last wall of defense being used by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to back its controversial decision on the 80-megawatt Saipan power plant has come under question after the Office of Insular Affairs refused an appeal to intervene in this dispute. OIA Director Ferdinand Aranza hinted that an agreement forged between the CNMI and Washington five years ago on its operations and management does not extend to the current squabble surrounding the procurement of the much delayed project.

PCB contamination: House prods Teno to create task force

Saying the health of the villagers in Tanapag is at stake, the House of Representatives yesterday set the motion to persuade Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to create a task force that will take care of the issues surrounding the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in the area. Members of the 18-member chamber voted unanimously to adopt a joint resolution asking the governor to act on the problems stemming from the failure by both federal and local authorities to clean up the village of the highly-toxic chemicals.

Saipan mayor wants more funds for beautification

Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan has intensified the island's beautification program but claimed he could have done more if the budget for his office would be increased. This year, the Office of the Mayor received a \$2.1 million in appropriation but Mr. Sablan is seeking a \$4 million budget for Fiscal 2001.

March 03, 2003

Separate regulatory body recommended

Board of Regents Chairman Vince Seman agreed that the BoR's licensing authority governing private institutions seeking to establish postsecondary institutions in the CNMI is "overwhelming" in addition to the Regents' major role in running the Northern Marianas College. The BoR chief, during the NMC's Pacific Gateway presentation at the House Wednesday, has recommended that the Legislature set up a separate entity that will regulate private entities applying for licenses to offer college-level programs in the CNMI.

CPA, MPLA locked in land transfer debate

Before the House Committee on Natural Resources Friday, autonomous public agencies Commonwealth Ports Authority and Marianas Public Land Authority traded arguments defending their conflicting stance on the bill proposing the freehold transfer of Puerto Rico public lands for the CPA's port expansion projects. The MPLA, led by Board member and former justice Pete Atalig and Commissioner Henry Hofsneider, adamantly opposed the proposed fee simple transfer of the public lands, citing its would-be adverse impact on MPLA projects that directly benefit people of NMI descent.

Walking association announces programs

The Saipan Walking Association, Inc. kicked off its regular walking program with the second annual Valentines 10K Walk at the Beach Road Pathway last February 8, the first in the list of walking events slated for the whole year. The overwhelming acceptance of walking concept and the accessible beach pathway paved the road to SAIWAI's debut two years ago and eventually became a part of the Internationaler Volkssportverband or otherwise known as the International Federation of Popular Sports.

March 03, 2004

Inter-island land exchange ban revived

Members of the House of Representatives voted in favor of a proposed legislation seeking to reinstate the ban on CNMI inter-island land exchanges. House Bill 14-68, offered by Rep. Jesus T. Attao, was passed by a vote of 17 to nothing during a session yesterday. Only Federal and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Clyde K. Norita, who is on an off-island medical emergency, was not present to cast a vote.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



**NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING LABOR CASES**

Monday, March 3, 2008 first notice | Monday, March 10, 2008 second notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. In particular, if you have wage claims please bring supporting documentation. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you. If your case has been resolved through a settlement, or you are a claimant and wish to withdraw your claims, please call Jeffrey Camacho, Chief, Enforcement Section, 236-0960, or come to the Enforcement Office at the Department of Labor.

THIS NOTICE IS POSTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Case Number	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time	Case Number	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
03-310	Agpawa, Celso D.	Ramos, Leonard C.	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-102	Liu, Guihua	LCKG Company, Inc.	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-014	Aiba, Tsuyoshi	Kumanomi dba Cafe de Colmar	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-156	Liu, Kaixue	Yuuhei Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-206	Alejandro, Josephine C.	Javier, Jeffrey	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-124	Liu, Rening	Neo Fashion	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-352	Alibio, Evelyn O.	K.S. Chang Corporation	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	04-305	Liu, Xiao Yan	Concorde Garment MFG	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-214	An, Eun Hee	Oak Corporation	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-022	Liu, Yafang	Chang Cheng Int'l Corporation	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
03-310	Andres, Dominador P.	Ramos, Leonard C.	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-371	Liwanag, Leonora S.	Santos, Lorylinda C.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-267	Antalan, Eduardo B.	Pelisamen, Maria E.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-256	Long, Xiaohong	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-337	Antonio, Luz A.	Kaipat, Celina C.	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-374	Lu, Dai Fang	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-077	Anuram, Janeth M.	Manglona, Dwight	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-295	Lu, Kaifeng	Success Corporation	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-161	Azarcion, Eutemio Jr. D.	Tadeo, Wilson P.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.	01-024	Lu, Yan Ling	Li Heng, Ltd.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-036	Belza, Jone M.	Herman's Modern Bakery	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-144	Lu, Yinxian	Jin Ji Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-278	Bernabe, Carlito E.	Quichocho Security Services	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-356	Lui, Damei	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-321	Brillo, Shirly T.	Camacho Investment Corp.	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-355	Macam, Onofre B.	Agbanlog, Ignacio C. Jr.	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-281	Briones, Warlito A.	BFJ Corporation	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-329	Manalang, Nelia P.	Delos Reyes, Michelle H.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-330	Buerano, Razon M.	Philipan Int'l, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-291	Manalo, Ruby A.	Ellis Miller dba EWGE	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-368	Bustillo, Jonas T.	Printwell, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-215	Mangahis, Jehan A.	ILC Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-386	Cabiao, Emelyn F.	Pacific Island Creation, Inc.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-172	Manzanilla, Aler L.	Mount Carmel School, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-382	Cabiles, Alfredo A.	Saipan Ice & Water Company	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-333	Manzano, Marcialo B.	Tenorio, Frankie R.	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-052	Chen, Chunhui	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-167	Martinez, Rosmari N.	Tadeo, Wilson P.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-316	Chen, Hui Zhu	Poong In, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-369	Monteclaro, Danilo B.	Greenstone International	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-227	Chen, Jing	Pangelinan, Mariano	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-370	Niduaza, Eraro S.	Seven Twelve 7.12 Enterprises	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-384	Chen, Junqing	Chen Wang Corporation	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-361	Pan, Jinhua	J.S. Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-289	Chen, Leiyong	De Mei Development Corp.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-324	Pan, Ping	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-221	Chen, Li	Poong In, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-200	Paracha, Celestino G.	United Int'l Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-288	Chen, Lian	De Mei Development Corp.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-366	Park, Yang Soo	Yoo Sung Embroidery	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-148	Chen, Ying	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-299	Parocha, Eduardo S.	Sablan Betelnut Distribution	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.
03-310	Cotin, Renato G.	Ramos, Leonard C.	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-345	Pei, Honglian	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-297	Cueto, Benhur A.	JNJ Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-111	Peng, Siqin	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-151	Dang, Dezhen	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-325	Bateman, Bruce A.	Bateman, Bruce A.	April 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-052	Dang, Dezhen	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-350	Orilly, Marilyn P.	Orilly, Marilyn P.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-348	Deng, Lijun	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-292	L & S Apparel Company	L & S Apparel Company	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-182	Deng, Wenhong	Winner's Corporation	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-052	Qian, Feng	UZ Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-326	Dizon, Raymundo V.	Hi-Five Company, Ltd.	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-017	Qian, Guohua	Dela Rosa, Elinor	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-314	Doblas, Benedicto E.	Younis Art Studio, Inc.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-273	Quiambaro, Angelito J.	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-178	Esconde, Ramonito O.	Pacific Rainbow (CNMI), Inc.	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.	05-142	Ren, Qiao Fang	Maribeth Corporation	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-286	Espinosa, Gilbert A.	Philipan Int'l, Inc.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-381	Ren, Xiu Yan	Siapn Ice & Water Company	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-193	Fan, Dongjuan	Success Corporation	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-244	Romew, Antonietta A.	Greenstone International	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-158	Fan, Jianying	Hui Shu Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-240	Rubis, Imelda R.	M.R. Phillips Enterprises	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-346	Fan, Xiaoli	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-285	Salamat, Joel C.	Rifu Apparel Corporation	April 4, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-259	Fang, Junqing	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	12:00 p.m.	00-217	Sanchez, Aurora D.C.	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-344	Fang, Yu	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-032	Sawrar, Md. Golam	Pacific Lucky Corporation	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-365	Fang, Zhuru	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-255	Shen, Chonglian	LY & Z American Corp.	April 3, 2008	11:00 a.m.
03-348	Flores, Joselito B.	Marianas Fashion, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-199	Shi, Huiyan	Concorde Garment MFG	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-196	Francisco, Maria C.D.L.	Success Corporation	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-343	Shi, Xi	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-213	Fu, Chulian	Hui Shu Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-379	Shimizu, Tomoko	EIC Mariana, Inc.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-132	Gao, Yueqiang	Hui Long Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-367	Shuang, Rujiu	Winner's Corporation	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-136	Gao, Zhanquan	Hui Long Corporation	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-125	Song, Liwei	World Apparel, Inc.	April 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-266	Garcia, Carmelito C.	Pelisamen, Maria E.	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-363	Su, Rulong	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.
01-096	Ge, Yuan Qin	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.	01-096	Sun, Hui Ling	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-347	Geng, Luping	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.	07-343	Sun, Xiaoyan	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.	April 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-146	Getueza, Franco E.	Chong Won Don	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-308	Tambot, Fernando S.	Juang Sig Corporation	April 2, 2008	12:00 p.m.
01-096	Gu, Chun Lan	L&T Int'l Corp.	April 3, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-288	Tan, Juan	LCKG Company, Ltd.	April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-101	Gu, Jianhua	Yong Cheng Corporation	April 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-174	Tanghal, Cilda B.	Pentastar Corporation	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-378	Gu, Lianhua	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-320	Viloria, Russel V.	Guzman, Linlingay E.	April 2, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-357	Guo, Qiongying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.	April 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	07-209	Wang, Fengming	GPPC, Inc.	April 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-340	He, Yunfei	Zhang's Corporation	April 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.	07-224	Wang, Haifang	Pacific Lucky Corporation	April 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-383	He, Yuxiang	Pentastar Corporation	April 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.	07-313	Shuang, Rujiu	American Sai Green	April 2, 20	

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNN'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

At best, a pander

Never illuminating, the Democratic presidential primary debate over trade policy has taken an especially dim turn. In their final head-to-head meeting before Tuesday's Ohio and Texas primaries, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois declared that they would opt out of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico unless those two countries renegotiated the pact's labor and environmental provisions to the United States' liking. For two candidates who pledge to repair U.S. standing in the world, it was an odd swipe at our next-door neighbors. Not surprisingly, Mexican and Canadian officials recoiled at the prospect of overturning settled political and economic expectations in their countries.

What could the Democrats mean? Labor and the environment are covered by "side agreements" to NAFTA, negotiated by President Bill Clinton, that call on all three countries to make and enforce good laws. The more recent U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement went further, requiring Peru to change its labor laws to meet International Labor Organization standards. Both Obama and Clinton, who supported the Peru deal, see it as a model for a NAFTA renegotiation with Mexico, according to their advisers. But if that's all the candidates have in mind, they are wildly overpromising: The Peru pact's labor and environmental standards are only incrementally stronger than the NAFTA side agreements. Meanwhile, the risks of renegotiation are huge. NAFTA is controversial in Mexico, too; farmers there are outraged by American agricultural imports. If the Mexican side asked that tariffs be reimposed on U.S. grain as part of a renegotiation, would President Obama or President Clinton sacrifice American farmers whose votes they were seeking only yesterday in Iowa? Or would he or she pull out of NAFTA? If the latter, the tariffs on both sides would revert to the levels of 14 years ago.

Whole U.S. industries have grown up to take advantage of NAFTA. Meanwhile, none of the U.S. jobs that left for Mexico would come back; they'd simply go to China, India or elsewhere.

The Democratic candidates understand that trade with the developing world has both costs and benefits, which are not evenly distributed across the United States. Two days before the debate, Obama said, "I don't think it's realistic for us to repeal NAFTA," because that "would actually result in more job loss ... than job gains." Clinton awkwardly pleaded that NAFTA has benefited some parts of the country — such as Texas. Yet the urge to win Ohio trumped, and both Democrats made a threat that, if taken seriously, can be described only as reckless. In other words, we have to hope that they were only pandering.

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THE GUEST THAT JUST WON'T LEAVE

LET'S SEE WHAT'S
ON THE WEATHER
CHANNEL.



About investors and us

On everybody's wish list is the dream that dozens of investors will swoop into the CNMI dressed in shining white armor as saviors of our destitute islands. As they charge down the streets creating opportunities, we the poor gentry bow our heads in adoration and genuflect that help is here. No longer will we be hungry. No longer will we have to beg. Money will soon flow like water on the streets. Hooray for the investors!

These investors in white are bringing in bags and bags of money to pour into our islands. If you thought the landscape was green before, look again at how much greener it will be with all the green dollars flowing about. Ah, yes, investors and more investors. That is the way to go to build up our economy again. But...

Then slowly we wake up. Our heads begin to feel like a hangover from a previous night of revelry. We ask what happened as we look around? Why is our economy now in the hands of outsiders? Why aren't our people employed at decent wages? Where are the good times we envisioned? Where did we go wrong?

An investor is an individual or a group that is seeking to earn the highest return on his investment. He has to have certain conditions or he will not commit his money and time. He is like a butterfly seeking the sweetest honey from any flower he can find. When the flower begins to wilt he will leave for fresher flowers. As long as the nectar keeps flowing he stays.

Along with all of you I, too, wish for investors to come and invest in our islands and create a prosperous economy. But there is one catch. Our people must be employed in those enterprises or we will remain as children outside looking through the store window at all the candy and toys inside. But alas, no one is really thinking about how to do this. No one is considering how our people and the investors are supposed to interact.

We are so locked into using outside nonresident workers to do everything for us. Somehow we have been mesmerized with the idea that the investor with his money and the nonresident worker with his willingness to work for a meager salary, though we create laws that he must do so, are the happy combinations for our prosperity at someone else's risk and labor. As a result we have miserably failed to create a skilled labor force to join forces with the investors.

What do we have to offer the investor if not a skilled workforce? Scenery alone will not do it. The rest of the world is beautiful also. We can see this in any country that also has a strong economic base. The more educated and skilled workforce a country has, the more prosperous are the people with more investors in partnership.

The world is changing and unless we understand that change and

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



adapt to it, we will be left behind. Our children will continue to leave the islands as they have already started to. We must understand that the most important priority in building our future is a strong skilled workforce able to handle any type of work. We must stop relying upon outsiders to do our work.

Let me quote extracts from a keynote address delivered by the Prime Minister of Malaysia at a forum in 2004. His remarks crystallize the very essence of the value of training our people if we are to ever develop a strong and sustainable economy in the CNMI.

"As I understand it, human development is development that is centered on the human person. It is ultimately aimed at improving the human person's welfare in all its dimensions, and enabling him to fulfill his full potential and his great aspirations.... Ultimately, the intangible assets of a knowledge based economy reside in the hearts and minds of our people. It is for this reason that I firmly believe that the foundational drivers of a nation's economy lie with its human resource capital...."

"Ordinary people are the center of knowledge creation and innovation. Our people are truly our greatest resource and asset. Whether they are in the smallest companies or in the highest levels of government, people are the building blocks of all that we do—and it is imperative that we recognize this fact. Machines can be fixed, restructured; however, the success or failure of any endeavor is still largely dependent on the people involved."

"It is people who do the thinking and planning; people who execute and implement; people who build and develop industries. In short, it is people who advance nations.... In order to make investments in technology, a country must have sufficient human capital. Human capital is the formal education, training and on-the-job learning embodied in the populace. Countries that have encouraged their people through education and lifelong learning... are well positioned to take advantages of these new global market trends."

"However, there is no quick and easy method to develop human resource capital. The solutions we pursue cannot merely

See ABOUT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Gratitude, gratitude and more gratitude

This letter is intended to express my gratitude to so many members of our Saipan community for their help and support during my recent period of serious illness. I know it is impossible to mention every single individual or organization who helped me, so I will beg that you forgive me if I do not give you the proper due respect in this letter.

On Dec. 15, 2007 at 8:30pm I suffered a heart attack and was rushed to the CHC Emergency Room, where upon arrival it became evident that I was in very serious trouble. The emergency staff on duty that evening took charge of the situation, performed their duties, and literally saved my life. Although in extreme pain, I remained conscious during the entire one and a half hours it took to stabilize me, and I was clearly aware of the tremendous coordinated effort that took place that evening. The doctor directed the team quietly and efficiently and the team responded likewise, a marvelous show of training and experience that was demonstrated right before my eyes. I want to take the time now to thank this team for the lifesaving work they did for me in the CHC Emergency Room that evening.

My gratitude also goes to the Physician's Assistant whom I visited the day before my attack, who gave me nitroglycerin tablets, just in case, which also contributed to saving my life on the night of the attack. In respect for him, I have not mentioned his name, since he is so graciously humble and I know he wouldn't be comfortable if I did.

But that's only the beginning, as I subsequently remained in CHC until one week later, Dec. 22, 2007, when I was transferred, along with a doctor and a nurse, to Asian Hospital and Clinic in Manila. There I was placed in surgery and underwent an emergency triple bypass on my heart, from which I am recovering now. (And yes Mister Seafix, "it is strange to know that my heart has been exposed to the daylight.") During that stay I was so overwhelmed with support from my fiancées family, now my wife, and all of her friends and a small group of friends I have in the Philippines. I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart, for visiting, bringing food, fruits and for those who helped me sit up, lie down and do simple things like start to breath properly and walk again. Thanks!

Back to CHC. During my one-week stay, I learned to eat the bad words that I had previously expressed about our hospital. Yes, it lacks in modern equipment and sometimes the proper people that we think it should have, and I know we have all heard stories about our hospital, but I want you to look at this facility from my vantage point during this week. Here I was lying in a hospital bed, where I was told that the chances of having another attack within the next week were very strong, and the probability of my surviving such an attack were pretty slim. That's a pretty scary scenario for anyone to face.

But everyday the staff of CHC showed genuine interest in my condition, while they were working 12-hour shifts, staying another

45 minutes to 1 hour following their shifts to transfer patient information, etc., without pay, and not uttering a word of complaint to me or others around me. I saw them looking tired and worn out, but continuing to do their jobs. What I saw, when they came to give me my meds, food, take vital signs, etc., were people who were efficiently going about their business and yet always talking to me politely with words like, "Hi, how you doing today, you look good!" and almost always encouraging me to be strong and have a good attitude. The people from the Medical Referral Office, Admin, etc. all came and did their jobs, while always assuring me that I would be fine and that they were doing their best. I thank them all from the bottom of my newly repaired heart!

Sometimes, I could hear the conversations in the adjacent rooms, as patients next to me came and went, during that week. Those conversations ranged from a doctor telling a patient that they had to amputate a limb, or that their condition couldn't be cured, or that they were going to be just fine, or a nurse saying, "don't worry about that accident, we'll clean it up, it's our job." Yet, those same working people popped into my room a few minutes later, and showed tremendous character by being upbeat and remaining a positive element in my week of lying there waiting to go who knows where.

Yes, the bed was old, had to be cranked by hand, made noise, the remote control didn't always work, but when you really think about it, does all of that really matter when you're facing another attack? What really matters is that I made it through that week, with the help of so many people, and so I want to say thanks to all at CHC for saving my life!

To my son and his family, my wife, and to so many people who took the time, during that challenging week, to come to CHC and offer me words of encouragement, I truly thank you so much. To those, especially my son, who worked so hard to take care of the paperwork, the billing commitments, etc., and who got me to Manila, I can only say "Thanks." It meant so much to me during such a trying time.

People from all walks of life, nationalities, ages, professions, etc., took the time to come and see me. At one point, I called my Muslim friend to whom I pay my cellular phone bill each month. I told him I was in CHC and was going off island and wouldn't be here to pay my bill at the beginning of the month. I asked him if he could come and see me so I could pay him in advance. He took my call as he was about to enter his mosque for prayer and immediately stopped and came to CHC, in his full Muslim garb. There he sat in the chair next to my bed and at one point as I was talking he stopped me, touched my hand and said, "Dr. Ken, I will pray for you to get well." At that moment I realized just how much we are all one people, with one purpose in life and that is to care for each other.

I remember one day, when the Chamorro lady in the room next to me had a lot of visitors and one was a little boy, maybe 4 or 5 years old. My fiancée had stepped out of the room to run an errand and I

was just lying there watching the people in the hallway passing by. The boy kept looking at me, then disappearing, then showing up again. Finally, a couple came walking down the hall and the little boy ran to them and said, "Mommy, Mommy, that man's all alone!" I laughed and they laughed and I told the little boy, "I'm just resting, it's OK." I saw how strong the local family is and how they supported the lady next door and how this little boy was able to grasp the concept that someone should care for everyone. What a wonderful observation that was.

Of course, I saw humor everyday, like when one night at midnight a young male nurse came to my bed to check the battery in the Telemetry Unit I had on, transmitting my heart signals to the nurse's desk. The signal had stopped and he came right in, but was trying to be careful not to wake me. When he finally said, "Sir, I need to check your batteries", I jumped about 3 feet into the air, and subsequently scared him and he fell backwards into the wall. Then we both started laughing and couldn't stop; what a funny experience that was.

Another time a Filipino family was visiting me with their little girl. I was showing them all the devices attached to my body to measure my vital signs, when the little girl ran from the room into the hallway. The father ran out and said, "Hey, where are you going?" The little girl said, pointing at me, "He needs a doctor!" Another good laugh.

My good friend, "the professor", came to me one day after the doctors had told me that I must remain calm and absolutely not worry about anything. My friend told me to close my eyes and hold out my hand. Well, after knowing him for so long, I was rather reluctant to do it, but I did. He placed something in my hand and told me to open my eyes and I did. What I saw was a small pencil eraser, the kind you slip on the end of a regular pencil. He said, "Whenever you start to worry about something or develop a concern, use this to immediately erase it." I laughed, but you know I put that eraser on top of the drawer unit next to my bed so I could always see it, and that entire week when something bad entered my mind I looked at that eraser and smiled. I took it with me to Manila and when I came back, I gave it back to my friend and told him I am done with it now.

So not only do I want to say thanks to everyone I mentioned and to those I may have overlooked, but I want to leave all of you with a thought or two. What a wonderful community we have here on Saipan. I hope each of you will take the time to look around you and see who those people are in your lives, who won't hesitate to be there when you need them and to appreciate them now, at this very moment. Appreciate them now, while you are able to. I only hope that you will be as blessed as I am to have so many wonderful people around you. Thanks, thanks, and more thanks!

Ken Shankweiler
As Matuus, Saipan

Ill-concocted petition

Please bear with me while I share my two-cents worth regarding the article that appeared Feb. 29, 2008, in the *Saipan Tribune* about an online petition seeking the ouster of acting Director of Fire, Mr. Juan I. Wabol.

It has become very typical for the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire included, to circulate petitions for the removal of its leadership when a few personnel do not agree with the manage-

ment. It's becoming too comical how certain people would use this democratic process just to get back at those that they either don't agree with or don't like.

The anonymous author so eloquently claims the "incompetence and inability" of Director Wabol to run the Fire Division but does not have the courage nor the decency to add his/her name or a face to this online petition. If the author of this "no confidence petition" feels that he/she

citizens are truly benefiting from working in it? Why is that? How many of our citizens have mastered the business of hospitality to be able to work as managers in the major hotels? How many of our people are cooks in the major hotels?

I feel that, had we trained some of our local people to operate and manage several garment factories, the outcome for that industry would be different now. An enterprising group that I know well has found a niche market in the garment industry. Having realized that since competition in the commercial garment market in America was killed by opening doors to imports from other countries, they discovered the U.S. military garment industry which is a \$3 billion a year industry. As a result they are still in business and will be for several more years.

Where are the locals who can do that? Had we had a strong local group in the garment industry we would possibly still have a garment industry catering to the United States military. For example, Puerto Rico, a Commonwealth just like us, does over \$400,000,000 per year in the garment industry business with the U.S. military. The CNMI does zero!

I want to send a strong message to all parents. Please encourage and motivate your sons and daughters to learn a skill whether

er it be academic or a trade. Stop encouraging them to work for the government just as you may have done for the past 20 years. That period has passed.

I want to send a strong message to all legislators. Please encourage and motivate your constituents to learn a skill whether it be academic or a trade. Also by your trying to keep wages from rising you are actually killing any incentives the people may have to improve themselves. Many think: "Why not just collect food stamps. It's easier."

Let us welcome investors. They are a great avenue for the islands to grow. But let us motivate our people to become educated and skilled participants in their enterprises. In fact I venture to say that once we become better educated in business, we will become our own investors. What a fabulous idea.

Look around and see what nations are growing and what nations are stagnating. The difference between the two is their quality of educated and skilled workforce or the lack of one. A proud and prosperous nation earns its own bread. The CNMI must rise to meet this challenge or forever be a dependent nation, eating bread offered by outsiders. The challenge is ours. Let's meet it head on and do it!

ABOUT

From Page 10

be based on a reaction in the short term. There must be resolute determination to stay committed to human development. This is true everywhere...."

I pray that our leaders read and reread those passages. They express the essence of what we must become with our workforce. We can no longer rely on an outside workforce and outside investors. Please let us plan and do action now or it will be too late. It is late, but not too late.

The basic theme that "our people must become educated and skilled workers" must be repeated over and over until we create them or we will always remain dependent upon outsiders for all our needs. Investors need skilled workers. Yet we don't have many to offer. That is one of the major reasons that many times the CNMI is bypassed as a place for investment. And now with the threat of federalization, investors are even more leery about venturing into the CNMI.

While tourism is our number one industry, how many of our

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲84° ▾75°

▲82° ▾75°

▲82° ▾75°

▲82° ▾76°

▲81° ▾75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲82 ▾73
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▾77
Yap	Cloudy	▲85 ▾77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88 ▾77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▾79
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87 ▾76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86 ▾79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲67 ▾56
Beijing	Sunny	▲50 ▾27
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲72 ▾57
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲79 ▾67
London	Rain/Snow	▲46 ▾32
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75 ▾50
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▾75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲83 ▾67
Miami	Thundershowers	▲82 ▾72
New York	Cloudy	▲52 ▾43
Osaka	Showers	▲50 ▾36
Paris	Cloudy	▲50 ▾35
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲48 ▾35
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲62 ▾47
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▾33
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▾46
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲43 ▾30
Tokyo	Showers	▲56 ▾40
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲62 ▾47

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
6:11AM Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet
10:56AM Today	Low Tide: 1.4 Feet
03:27PM Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet
11:17PM Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:33AM	6:25PM	Today	02:57AM	02:18PM
Tuesday	6:32AM	6:25PM	Tuesday	03:45AM	03:14PM
Wednesday	6:32AM	6:26PM	Wednesday	04:31AM	04:10PM
Thursday	6:31AM	6:26PM	Thursday	05:14AM	05:05PM
Friday	6:31AM	6:26PM	Friday	05:14AM	05:05PM

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■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily
CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6
CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota
CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily
CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya
NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:30pm 7:25pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6
CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1
OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7

Saipan-Guangzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590 4:20am 7:00am 2,6

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6
CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7
CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror
CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily
PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 7:45pm 10:40pm 1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asia; MU: China Eastern; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unquestionable integrity

Lately, a few critics on the island have called NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez's integrity into question. These allegations are unfounded and even border on the ridiculous.

Let me start with Mr. John Gonzales' allegations. Mr. Gonzales stated, "They make it sound like there is just no NMI native qualified for said position. How much more demeaning and condescending can this be? How insulting is this to us from the NMI, implying that there is really no Rotanese, Tinianese, or Saipanese qualified enough with unquestionable local loyalty to take on this position, get immediately trained, and swiftly address pending accreditation institutional effectiveness matters?"

First of all, allowing for equal employment opportunities demands that employers or those in charge of hiring overlook race, gender, and sexual orientation and focus on qualifications. Being from Saipan, Tinian, or Rota in no way makes you professional in education. It simply states your roots, which should have no bearing in the hiring process. What you are calling for seems to be local preference or special treatment simply because you hail from the NMI. That is completely ridiculous. If you truly were concerned about the well-being of the college, and not the money that the job being protested offers, then you would gladly accept the decision of the college to hire a more qualified candidate whose experience is better than yours.

My friend, I suggest you put down your pride for five minutes and leave your ego with the bathroom mirror. So what if the chosen candidate was a "Guamanian"? So what if he was "a former associate of Carmen"? (By the way, it's Dr. Fernandez or Sen. Fernandez. I reckon you have some respect for the titles she has earned through her hard work or at the very least, offer her some sort of reverence.) Mr.

Castro, the chosen candidate, has amazing qualifications that make him an obvious choice over you. For one, there's his Harvard University degree. Two, there's his Columbia University degree. And third and most importantly, his capacity and experience as the current chief planner of GPSS. After seeing Mr. Castro's overwhelming and impressive resume, it would sure be hard to be enthused by other applicants. Yet you're telling us that the fact that you're from Saipan should be the top criteria for this position? You have got to be kidding all of us! Thank you for the laugh, sir.

Now, let me move on to Mr. Perry Conner's statements about Dr. Fernandez. Mr. Conner stated, "It might also appear that Fernandez is simply running the institution into the ground to an early demise. Was she actually hired to do that? Since no one is talking, how can we figure out what is really happening? Does anybody care?"

Someone is talking now. That someone is me, Roselle D. Calvo. Dr. Fernandez is a dear friend of mine, and I am proud to call her not just a good friend, but a GREAT friend. I first met Dr. Fernandez when she was Senator Fernandez and I was Senator Calvo. During her term as a senator in Guam, Senator Fernandez coordinated an SAT Preparatory Program, free-of-charge for the students of Guam. She recruited the help of a young woman who was a Harvard University student at the time. (That young woman has now graduated from Harvard and is attending graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.) As a youth senator, I coordinated the same exact program here. However, I alone cannot take credit for the SAT Preparatory Program that I coordinated on our islands a few years ago. Senator Fernandez was the brain behind the project, and she helped me tremendously.

Wipe your eyes or clear the fog on your glasses, Mr. Conner. Carmen Fernandez cares about all students and the college. She's cared about the CNMI's students years before she was chosen as the president of NMC. As to what's happening, she's cleaning up a mess that was created years before she got there.

The NMI should be proud to have Dr. Carmen Fernandez as president of NMC. The college has much to benefit from an intelligent and exceptional educational professional. Keep up the good work, Dr. Fernandez!

Roselle D. Calvo
New York, NY

Aloha, Dan!

Dan Hughes was a good dude! Dan was the former owner/founder of Coffee Care, which when I lived on Saipan was a very successful and fun place. He was a great guy who treated everyone great—customer, employee, distributor, cat, dog, gecko, whatever. He had a lot of friends on Saipan and I'm sure wherever he went. I was lucky to get to know Dan during

my stay on Saipan and even worked for him at one point. Unfortunately Dan passed away recently in Thailand. He will not be forgotten by any of his friends, which would include his former employees. Dan Hughes was a guy who took care of the people that mattered to him and everyone else he came across. Dan will be missed by a lot of people because he had a lot of friends. He's the

Mike Remsen
Kapaa, HI

Business

Dollar falls again, euro zone divided

BERLIN (AP)—The dollar kept spiraling down Friday, hitting another low against the euro and dropping to a three-year record against the yen, as worries about the U.S. economy depress the currency and raise thorny issues in Europe about how to cope with the growing gap.

The euro flew past its previous high to hit \$1.5238, before subsiding to \$1.5194 late in New York. The euro topped \$1.50 this week for the first time since being introduced in 1999 at \$1.17, then surged above \$1.51 after markets took comments from Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke as a sign that yet more U.S.

Soaring euro

The euro topped \$1.50 this week for the first time since its 1999 introduction.

Dollar value of one euro



SOURCE: Thomson Financial AP

rate cuts are on the way.

"The dollar looks set to finish the month with yet more down-

side pressure being heaped upon it," said Gary Thomson of CMC Markets in London.

The dollar also slumped to 103.96 Japanese yen on Friday from 105.36 yen in New York the night before. The dollar has not been below 104 yen since March 2005.

The dollar also fell to 1.0433 Swiss francs from 1.0503 Swiss francs, hitting a record low of 1.0410 francs, according to Dow Jones' Interbank foreign exchange rates.

The two "carry-trade currencies" tend to trade inversely to the market. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped more than 300 points in late trading in New York.

Audits sting hospitals, physicians

WASHINGTON (AP)—In coming weeks, private audit companies will begin scouring mountains of medical records. Their mission: Determine if health care providers erred when billing Medicare and require them to return any overpayments to the federal government. The auditors will keep a tidy percentage for their services.

The contractors have shown they're pretty good at their work. In just three years, they've returned more than \$300 million to the federal government—and that's just from three states. That experiment is winding down. But a larger, national program will soon take its place.

The rollout of "recovery audit contractors" will be gradual. They'll monitor health care providers in 19 states beginning this spring. In October, an additional five states will join.

AIR FORCE DEAL

In this artist's depiction provided by Northrop Grumman Corp., a KC-45A refuels a F-22 Raptor. The Air Force on Friday awarded Northrop Grumman Corp. and a European partner a \$35 billion contract to build airborne refueling planes, delivering a major blow to Boeing Co. The selection of Los Angeles-based Northrop Grumman and European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co., the maker of Airbus planes, surprised industry and elected officials. Air Force officials said the larger size of the Northrop-EADS aircraft helped tip the balance in its favor.

average of \$3.642 a gallon.

Dow loses 315 on economic worries

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks fell sharply Friday after a series of depressing economic and corporate reports as well as high oil prices stoked concerns about the health of the economy. The major stock indexes fell more than 2.5 percent and the Dow Jones industrials lost 315 points. Investors were unnerved by disappointing quarterly results from American International Group Inc. and Dell Inc. And an index of regional business activity that Wall Street regards as a good indicator of a broader report due next week had its weakest showing in more than six years. Oil prices continued to stir concern about inflation after pushing past \$103 per barrel for the first time. While stocks made sharp gains in the first three days this week even amid somewhat lackluster economic readings, the litany of concerns investors succumbed

to Friday reflected the undercurrent of uncertainty that has kept Wall Street on edge for months.

Risks seen for growing Fannie, Freddie

WASHINGTON (AP)—Loosening the regulatory reins around Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac gives them the freedom to play a bigger role in trying to stabilize a worsening housing market. The danger, some analysts say, is that the government-sponsored mortgage titans will become saddled with too much financial risk. Fannie and Freddie this week reported fourth-quarter losses totaling \$6.1 billion and predicted multi-billion-dollar losses throughout 2008. Yet despite their financial troubles and the shakiness of the U.S. housing market, the government is making it easier for Fannie and Freddie to take on additional home-loan debt, something the companies have sought for months.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Profit-taking pulls oil back from \$103

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures retreated from a new overnight record above \$103 as the dollar gained strength and Turkish forces withdrew from northern Iraq. The slumping dollar and tension in the oil-rich Middle East have been among the factors in crude's dramatic 19 percent rise in February. Still, many analysts believe any declines may be temporary and that oil is poised to rise above \$103.76 a barrel. That's the price many believe to be oil's all-time high, on an inflation-adjusted basis, set in early 1980 during the Iranian hostage crisis. Gasoline and diesel prices, meanwhile, continued to soar. Gas prices rose 0.3 cent overnight to a national average of \$3.164 a gallon, creeping closer to last May's record of \$3.227 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Diesel prices jumped 1.5 cents to a new record national

Nation

Utah home search planned in ricin case

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A motel patron hospitalized after the potent poison ricin was mysteriously found in his room “barely got by in life,” according to a woman who knew him when he lived at a Utah home that agents hoped to search Saturday.

A down-on-his-luck Roger Von Bergendorff lived at his cousin’s home for more than a year before moving to Las Vegas about a year ago, said Tammy Ewell, who lives across the street from Thomas Tholen in Riverton, Utah, and described him and his wife, Ellen, as close friends.

“He was very much a loner. I would say more or less socially regressive. He just barely got by in life. He’d just barely make it,” Ewell said. “Tom was the last resort.”

In a brief phone interview earlier Saturday, Thomas Tholen told The Associated Press that Von Bergendorff was “holding his own” in the hospital.

Tholen, 53, wouldn’t say much more about Von Bergendorff or the discovery Thursday of several vials of ricin—



AP
Lawrence Sands, right, of the Southern Nevada Health District, speaks during a news conference, Friday, Feb. 29, 2008 in Las Vegas.

which is deadly in minuscule amounts—at the man’s extended-stay motel room on the Las Vegas Strip.

Officials have secured Tholen’s home, where Von Ber-

gendorff reportedly stayed, but they have not searched it because they are awaiting court approval for a warrant, FBI spokesman Juan Becerra said later Saturday. Authorities have not said

how much ricin was involved but expressed confidence they have it all.

Dr. Lawrence Sands, chief health officer of the Southern Nevada Health District in Las Ve-

Family killed in Texas; 4 youths held

ALBA, Texas (AP)—A mother and two children were killed in a predawn attack at their remote East Texas ranch, which burned to the ground, and four young people who knew the family will be charged with murder, authorities said.

The father was in critical condition with a gunshot wound, Rains County Sheriff David Traylor said at a news conference.

Three high school students and a juvenile were arrested and booked into the Rains County jail. The two males and two females will be charged with three counts each of capital murder, Traylor said.

The family had a teenage daughter, but Traylor did not provide information on her whereabouts. The dead were a 39-year-old woman and two boys, ages 8 and 13, Traylor said.

“It’s the scariest thing,” Traylor said. “You don’t know what to make. I guess you imagine the worst and hope for the best.”

Authorities were tightlipped on details, but Traylor said autopsies have been ordered.

The house sat on at least 20 acres of pine-canopied, remote land on a narrow gravel road with just two other homes, Traylor said. Alba is about 60 miles northeast of Dallas.

Harold Read, who lives about a mile away, said he was awakened by what he thought was thunder around 4 a.m., the time when authorities were first called to the house.

where the poison was discovered.

The firearms and the book, which was tabbed at a spot containing information about ricin, were seized Tuesday after a manager at the Extended Stay America motel found the weapons and called police, police Capt. Joseph Lombardo said. He did not elaborate.

Ewell, Von Bergendorff’s former neighbor, said she often saw him walking his German shepherd on the street. It wasn’t clear what he did for a living or how he spent his time.

Toward the end of his stay, he started attending the local Mormon church and briefly moved out of the Tholen home into a neighbor’s camper, she said.

Tholen is a former high school art teacher who now sells insurance with his wife, she said.

“The Tholens were the last ones we’d expect anything to happen to,” Ewell said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ship built with WTC steel christened

AVONDALE, La. (AP)—The USS New York, an amphibious assault ship built with scrap steel from the ruins of the World Trade Center, was christened Saturday as a source of strength and inspiration for the nation. Thousands of people, including friends and families of those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, gathered near the hulking gray ship, trimmed in red, white and blue banners. The bow stem, which contains 7.5 tons of steel from the site, bore a shield with two gray bars to symbolize the twin towers and a banner over that declaring “Never Forget,” a slogan among New Yorkers. “May God bless this ship and all who sail on her,” Dotty England said before smashing a bottle of champagne against it, producing a loud thump to go with the spouting liquid and flying streamers. Story after story of lives lost in, and touched by, the attacks peppered the ceremony, held under the blazing sun and broadcast on large screens. It all brought back painful memories for New York Police Lt. Matt Murphy. But the reason for his being here, though, was a source of pride, he said.

Experimental planes collide in FL; 2 die

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—An experimental plane that may have been having trouble landing struck another that was taxiing at an airfield Saturday, setting both on fire and killing two people, authorities said. Two people were critically injured. The plane trying to land crashed into another on the ground around 8:30 a.m. at Arthur Dunn Airpark in Titusville, said Scott Gaenick, spokesman and division chief for Titusville Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Both planes were single-engine and amateur-built, officials said. An Experimental Aircraft Association chapter was hosting a pancake breakfast at the airfield, east of Orlando and about 110 miles northeast of Tampa. The plane on the ground appeared to be taxiing to a ramp area when the other plane slammed into it. Two people who were in the plane that had left the runway were killed, authorities said. The other plane cartwheeled for about 100 yards before landing belly-up on a grass median at the airport. Bystanders helped two people who were in that plane, which also caught fire. They were flown to Orlando Regional Medical Center with severe burns. One of the survivors is in “grave” condition, and the other is extremely critical, Gaenick said.

Suit says HUD chief tied funds to favor

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A seemingly ho-hum rules dispute between Philadelphia’s public housing agency and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has led to accusations of favoritism and corruption against a member of President Bush’s Cabinet. According to the city housing authority director, HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson has threatened the agency’s funding since it refused to award a vacant lot worth \$2 million to Kenny Gamble, a soul-music producer-turned-community developer. Jackson, forgoing protocol, toured the site with Gamble in September 2006 without inviting local officials to join them, and later personally called Philadelphia’s mayor at the time for help, according to an amended federal lawsuit filed against HUD last month by the Philadelphia Housing Authority. “This is extraordinary. He’s the president’s representative, and he’s personally coming out, on his own, to take a firsthand look into a contract dispute?” housing authority Director Carl Greene said Thursday.

Bush won’t promise further troop cuts

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP)—President Bush declined Saturday to promise more U.S. troop withdrawals from Iraq before he leaves office, and underscored the need for a strong military presence during Iraqi provincial elections in October.

Security has improved markedly since last summer when the last of five Army brigades arrived in Iraq to complete the president’s buildup of 30,000 troops. One brigade has already returned home and the four others are to leave by July. What remains unclear is whether Bush will order additional drawdowns in the final months of his presidency.

“There is going to be enormous speculation,” he said.

At the news conference,

Obama makes only stop in RI, slams rival

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama, on his first visit to Rhode Island as a presidential candidate, sought Saturday to portray Hillary Rodham Clinton as a candidate who shifted positions for political expediency.

“Real change isn’t about changing your position to fit the politics of the moment. And that’s the choice in this election,” Obama told a packed recreation center as thousands more listened from outside.

Four days ahead of primary contests here and in three other states, the Illinois senator stopped on his way from campaigning in Texas to events in Ohio, the two marquee contests next Tuesday. Vermont also votes.

Obama spoke six days after Clinton came to the same arena and depicted Obama as naive and unrealistic about dealing with tough issues like health care reform and global warming.

In his remarks, Obama challenged his rival’s judgment and commitment on trade and foreign policy.

He asserted that Clinton had changed her position to oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement only after deciding to run for president. He also said she waffled on legislation to make it harder for low-income individuals to file for bankruptcy protection.

He depicted himself as having better judgment to deal with

Bush said decisions about troop cuts—beyond those now planned through July—would be based on recommendations from his generals. But he said there needs to be strong military support in place to ensure the viability of Iraqi provincial elections. It was an indication that more troop reductions might have to wait until after the voting in Iraq on Oct. 1.

“I think our generals ought to be concerned about making sure there’s enough of a presence so that the provincial elections can be carried off in such a way that democracy advances,” Bush said. “But I’ll wait and hear what they have to say. But, yes, I mean, that ought to be a factor in their recommendation to me.”

The family had a teenage daughter, but Traylor did not provide information on her whereabouts. The dead were a 39-year-old woman and two boys, ages 8 and 13, Traylor said.

“It’s the scariest thing,” Traylor said. “You don’t know what to make. I guess you imagine the worst and hope for the best.”

Authorities were tightlipped on details, but Traylor said autopsies have been ordered.

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Harold Read, who lives about a mile away, said he was awakened by what he thought was thunder around 4 a.m., the time when authorities were first called to the house.

Asia

Philippine bombing wounds 6 persons

JOLO, Philippines (AP) -- A bomb wounded two Filipino soldiers and four women at a bar near a Philippine military camp where U.S. troops were conducting counterterrorism training, an army spokesman said Sunday.

No Americans were hurt in the Saturday night blast that wounded two Filipino army intelligence agents and four women

en working at the karaoke bar on Jolo island, about 590 miles south of Manila, said army spokesman Maj. Roel Ebreo.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Several dozen U.S. troops have been training Filipino counterparts in counterterrorism operations on Jolo for two years. The al-Qaida-linked Muslim militant group Abu Sayyaf has

strongholds there.

Most of the Philippines' population is Roman Catholic, but Jolo has a Muslim majority.

Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants bombed another Jolo karaoke bar in February 2006, killing three people and wounding two dozen others. They bombed a store on the island a month later, killing nine.

Abu Sayyaf wants self-rule for

Muslims in the southern Philippines and has been blamed for numerous bombings, kidnappings

and beheadings in the area.

The Philippine military says U.S.-backed offensives against

Abu Sayyaf have reduced its strength to about 300 guerrillas from more than 1,000 in 2000.

Extremist accused in Bhutto killing

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

(AP) — Pakistani police on Saturday formally accused the top Taliban leader in the country and four others of planning the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

Police filed preliminary charges in court against Baitullah Mehsud, who had been named by the Pakistani government in the Dec. 27 killing of Bhutto in a suicide and gun-attack during a public rally. Mehsud, alleged to have al-Qaida connections, is underground and it is not clear if the police are anywhere close to catching him.

Police submitted preliminary charges in the Bhutto case before an anti-terrorism court, and the judge issued non-bailable warrants of arrest against Baitullah Mehsud and four other accused persons, said Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, the chief investigator in the case.

Mehsud was named by President Pervez Musharraf within days of the assassination, but the filing of the preliminary charges Saturday completes a legal formality. It is the first legal step

before an arrest can be made.

Mehsud is the commander of Tehrik-e-Taliban, an umbrella group of Islamic militant groups linked to al-Qaida. Mehsud is believed to be based in the volatile South Waziristan province at the border with Afghanistan, and has been blamed for a series of suicide attacks across Pakistan.

Majeed refused to give details of the investigation into the specific roles that the suspects are accused of playing in the assassination.

"The suspects, declared absconders in the case, were involved in planning to kill Benazir Bhutto," he told The Associated Press.

He said the others named in the charges are Ibadur Rehman, Imramullah, Faiz Muhammad and Abdullah. All five are accused of being involved in planning and financing the assassination plot, he said. Imramullah and Abdullah use only one name.

Police have already arrested five suspects in connection with Bhutto's killing, including Husain Gul, who allegedly facilitated Bhutto's attacker because

he wanted to avenge the death of a friend in a military attack on a mosque last year.

Gul and his cousin, identified only as Rafaqat, were arrested recently. Other suspects include a 15-year-old boy, Aitezaz Shah, and two others, Sher Zaman and Abdul Rasheed, who are said to have supplied arms to the attacker, identified as Saeed alias Bilal.

Majeed said earlier that police were still looking for another man, Ikramullah, who is believed to have been assigned to attack Bhutto if she escaped the first blast.

Majeed also has said Bilal met with Mehsud weeks before the attack on Bhutto, according to a detainee who had traveled to troubled South Waziristan.

According to the police, Shah, the 15-year-old boy, said that Mehsud had sent a five-member squad on the day of the attack and that he was among the backup team along with Ikramullah.

It is believed that Bilal first fired at Bhutto and then exploded himself, killing more than 20 others.

Pakistan probes bombing that killed 40

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) —

Police searched for clues Saturday after a suicide attack at a police officer's funeral killed more than 40 people in northwestern Pakistan, where troops are fighting pro-Taliban militants.

Another suicide bombing Saturday killed one person and wounded 19 others in the region, officials said.

More than 60 people were also hurt Friday night when a bomber blew himself up amid some 800 mourners who had gathered for the funeral of Javed Iqbal, a senior police officer who was killed in a roadside bombing earlier in the day.

Among the dead was Iqbal's 16-year-old son, Ghazan.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Syed Akhtar Ali Shah said although no one has claimed

responsibility, police were confident of arresting those who orchestrated the attack in Mingora, about 105 miles from Peshawar in the Swat Valley.

District police chief Arshad Majid said 40 bodies were accounted for, but the toll was expected to rise after forensic officials reconstruct body parts.

The suicide bombing was the bloodiest attack in the Swat Valley since militant followers of a pro-Taliban cleric grabbed control of large parts of the scenic corner of Pakistan's restive northwest.

President Pervez Musharraf, a U.S. ally in the war on terror, sent thousands of troops to Swat in November but attacks have persisted.

On Saturday, a suicide bomber struck a vehicle carry-

ing security forces in the northwestern tribal region of Bajur, killing one civilian and wounding 19 others, mostly security personnel, said Iqbal Khatak, a government official. The attacker was on foot.

All the victims were taken to a hospital where three were in critical condition, he said.

Friday's suicide attack was the most serious since the Feb. 18 parliamentary elections in which Musharraf's allied party was soundly defeated, plunging his political future into uncertainty.

Shahbuddin, an assistant inspector of police, said the explosion occurred just as pallbearers—including Iqbal's teenage son—lifted the coffin to carry it toward the grave. Many police officers were at the funeral.

Suspect arrest in East Timor prez attack

DILI, East Timor (AP) — An

ex-policeman suspected of having shot and wounded East Timor's president last month was in custody Sunday after surrendering to police, military officials said.

Amaro da Costa turned himself in without a fight late Saturday, handing over two automatic weapons and some ammunition, Lt. Col. Filomeno

Paixao said. Two military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, described da Costa as an ex-policeman suspected in the shooting.

President Jose Ramos-Horta is still recovering from the attack outside his home on Feb. 11. Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao escaped unharmed from an ambush on his motor-

cade the same day.

The attacks highlighted the nation's volatility six years after declaring independence, and were the latest chapter in a bitter dispute between hundreds of renegade troops and the government.

Da Costa told reporters Sunday he "was involved" in the Feb. 11 "incident" at Ramos-Horta's residence, but provided few other details.



MANILA OCEANARIUM

Local tourists take pictures of a shark and a sting ray as they pass above them during the public opening of The Manila Ocean Park, the country's first oceanarium, Saturday, March 1, 2008, in Manila, Philippines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Shanghai residents stop maglev protest

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — Residents warned potential demonstrators Saturday against mounting an illegal march to protest a proposed extension of a high-speed train line through their Shanghai neighborhood. Residents in armbands used a megaphone to warn people not to "linger here too long," to avoid problems with the police, who had rejected their petition to hold a protest march against the magnetic levitation, or maglev, train. "This is still a way to express our opinions," said Chen Wei, who said he was a representative of the residents. He said protest marches would continue to be an option if the government failed to address their concerns.

Roadside bomb kills 3 in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A roadside bomb struck a tractor in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing three people, including a woman and a child, and wounding seven others, an official said. The blast hit a family as they were traveling between villages in the Ali Sher district of Khost province, said Gul Mohamaddin Mohammadi, a provincial health official. A woman and 7-year-old child were among those killed, while seven others, including a woman and three children, were wounded in the explosion, Mohammadi said. The explosion happened on a road used by foreign and Afghan troops. Militants regularly target forces with roadside and suicide bombs, but most of the victims have been civilians.

US military probes Marine

rape suspect

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. military authorities are investigating a Marine accused of raping a teenage girl in southern Japan after Japanese prosecutors dropped charges against him, officials said Saturday. Staff Sgt. Tyrone Luther Hadnott, 38, was arrested earlier this month on suspicion of raping a 14-year-old girl on the southern island of Okinawa, triggering a nationwide furor over American troop-related crimes in Japan. Hadnott was released Friday night after the girl withdrew her criminal complaint against him, according to Ryo Fukahori, a ministry official in charge of Japan-U.S. security. The district prosecutor's office in the prefectural capital of Naha then dropped charges against Hadnott. Rape charges in the Japanese judicial system can only be filed with a victim's complaint.

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KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A roadside bomb struck a tractor in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing three people, including a woman and a child, and wounding seven others, an official said. The blast hit a family as they were traveling between villages in the Ali Sher district of Khost province, said Gul Mohamaddin Mohammadi, a provincial health official. A woman and 7-year-old child were among those killed, while seven others, including a woman and three children, were wounded in the explosion, Mohammadi said. The explosion happened on a road used by foreign and Afghan troops. Militants regularly target forces with roadside and suicide bombs, but most of the victims have been civilians.

World

Israeli strikes kill 54 in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli troops turned heavy firepower on rocket squads bombarding southern Israel Saturday, killing 54 Palestinians in the deadliest day in Gaza since the current round of fighting erupted in 2000.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed and seven were wounded in the clashes, the military said.

The violence took a heavy toll on Gaza civilians. Moderate Palestinian leaders called the killings a “genocide” and threatened to call off peace talks.

“The response to these rockets can’t be that harsh and heinous,” said Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. “It is nowadays described as a holocaust.”

The spasm of violence came days before Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was to arrive in the region to nudge Israel and

Palestinians closer to a peace accord. But the rising tensions threatened to mar her visit.

In Washington, National Security Council spokesman Gordon Johndroe expressed regret for loss of civilian life on both sides but put most of the blame on the Palestinians.

“There is a clear distinction between terrorist rocket attacks that target civilians and action in self-defense,” he said in a statement.

The U.N. Security Council met Saturday night behind closed doors in emergency session at the request of the Palestinians and their Arab supporters.

“We want a condemnation of the killings and we want also a call for a cease-fire by the Security Council,” said the Arab League’s U.N. observer, Yahya



AP An Israeli woman is treated for shock after a rocket by Palestinian militants hit the town of Sderot, southern Israel, Saturday, Mar. 1, 2008.

WORLD BRIEFS

Armenia declares state of emergency

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP)—Armenia’s president imposed a state of emergency Saturday after police used tear gas and fired shots into the air to disperse demonstrators protesting alleged fraud in last month’s presidential election. The announcement from the office of President Robert Kocharian came shortly after police broke up the rally of about 15,000 demonstrators. Earlier, police used batons to remove hundreds of protesters who had camped for more than a week in tents in a square near the city mayor’s office. Tensions remained high into the night. Groups of angry young people were prowling the streets of the capital, calling for others to join them, city residents told The Associated Press. An AP reporter saw cars overturned and the police department said some of its cars had been set on fire. Looters hit stores and kiosks, police said. “What’s going on now is not a political process. It has gone over the edge,” Kocharian said in a late-night news conference. “I appeal to the people of Armenia to show restraint and understanding.”

Senior Colombian rebel commander killed

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Troops killed a senior commander of Colombia’s largest rebel army in an air-and-ground raid Saturday, as the U.S.-backed military dealt a stunning setback to the nation’s leftist insurgency. Raul Reyes was the official spokesman for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and considered a possible successor to the leftist group’s No. 1 spot. The United States had offered a \$5 million reward for his capture. Reyes, 59, died in combat and air strikes in neighboring Ecuador, Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos told a news conference. “This is the strongest blow dealt to the terrorist group to date,” Santos said. There was no immediate reaction from the FARC. Santos said the military tracked Reyes’ location through an informant. The air force bombed a camp on Colombia’s side of the border where he was thought to be, but as ground troops moved in, they came under attack from another camp across the frontier. Reyes was found dead in the base in Ecuador.

Prince Harry returns to UK, family

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry returned home to his relieved father and older brother Saturday after a 10-week Afghan tour of duty that security officials fear could now make him a top target for extremists. His body armor hanging loose off one shoulder, Harry, 23, descended the steps of a Royal Air Force troop carrier with about 170 other soldiers. He handed some of his gear to his brother, Prince William, and was led by his father, Prince Charles, to a waiting family car, where he took off the bulletproof vest. Harry, an army cornet, or second lieutenant, left the southern province of Helmand after details of his deployment appeared Thursday on The Drudge Report Web site, leaking news previously kept secret under a pool agreement between the Ministry of Defense and all major news organizations operating in Britain, including The Associated Press. Military chiefs said they ruled that Harry had likely become a Taliban target and decided it was not safe for him to complete his tour, which had been due to end in April.

Mahmassani. “What’s happening now is jeopardizing the peace process.”

Such resolutions have failed repeatedly in the past because of U.S. and European objections that they are not balanced in their condemnation.

Early Sunday, Israeli aircraft destroyed the office building in Gaza City used by Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, witnesses said. Five people were lightly wounded in the raid.

At least two dozen Palestinian civilians, including a baby, were among those killed Saturday, and militants said 25 fighters died. Health officials said about 200 people were wounded, 14 of them critically.

The overall death toll was the highest in a single day since the current round of violence erupted in September 2000. The highest previous death toll was 38 on March 8, 2002.

The intense fighting pushed the Palestinian death toll to more than 80 since fighting flared Wednesday. About half of those were civilians.

Russia votes for Putin’s successor

MOSCOW (AP)—After eight years of rule that saw Russia’s influence and wealth grow while its democratic freedoms shrank, voters in the Far East were the first in this vast nation to cast their ballots Sunday for President Vladimir Putin’s successor.

When the election is over and the votes are counted, a path almost certainly will be open for Putin to take a new and powerful role in the government of the man he has endorsed to take his place.

There is no significant opposition to Dmitry Medvedev, who

says that if he wins he will ask Putin to become prime minister—an offer that Putin is sure to accept.

Medvedev has even based his platform on a vow to pursue “the Putin plan.” It’s a telling demonstration of how Putin established dominion over Russian politics through genuine popular support, marginalizing opposition parties and putting national broadcasters under the state’s thumb.

Critics denounce the election as little more than a cynical stage show. The Central Elections Commission threw the only

liberal candidate—former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov—off the ballot for allegedly forging signatures on his nominating petitions. Garry Kasparov, the former world chess champion and the Kremlin’s most internationally prominent opponent, shelved his own ambitions after his supporters were refused rental of a hall in which to hold their mandatory nominating meeting.

“It’s not an election; it’s a farce. Its results were known long ago,” Kasparov said Saturday after handing in a petition

Ahmadinejad on historic Iraq trip

BAGHDAD (AP)—President Bush’s last trip to Iraq was kept secret until he arrived at a U.S. military base. Eight hours later he left, after Iraq’s leaders traveled to meet him there.

In sharp contrast, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s visit—the first ever by an Iranian leader to Iraq—was announced in advance. He plans to spend the night here, and Iranian TV will broadcast his departure ceremony live.

Once considered Iraq’s archenemy, Iran is now cozy with Baghdad’s Shiite-led government and eager to show off Tehran’s rising influence as debate rages in the U.S. over how quickly to leave.

Ahmadinejad was to arrive Sunday morning at Baghdad’s airport and head to Iraqi President Jalal Talabani’s headquarters, located right across the Tigris River from the mammoth new U.S. Embassy in the fortified Green Zone.

Ahmadinejad sought to reassure Iraqis ahead of the trip by disputing U.S. accusations that Iran is meddling in Iraqi affairs and fueling violence among

Shiite militias. “Iran has no need to intervene in Iraq. It is friendly to all groups in Iraq. Isn’t it ridiculous that those who have deployed 160,000 troops in Iraq accuse us of intervening there?” the Iranian state-run news agency, IRNA, quoted Ahmadinejad as saying.

During the two-day visit, Ahmadinejad is scheduled to meet with Talabani and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki—both of whom have made official visits to Iran since taking office.

The trip symbolically serves several purposes for Iran. Ahmadinejad wants to highlight Shiite-dominated Iran’s influence but at the same time show that Iran is not a bully, analysts say.

He also may be trying to bolster his support back home ahead of parliamentary elections later this month that are seen as referendum on the Iranian president. Ahmadinejad has come under criticism from all sides in Iran for spending too much time on anti-Western rhetoric and not enough on economic problems plaguing the country.

US general seeks to create Iraqi jobs

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq (AP)—Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch is a West Point graduate with a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from MIT. In Iraq, he’s also a fish farmer.

Violence in the region

Lynch commands, including the so-called “Triangle of Death” south of Baghdad, has dropped nearly 80 percent from a year ago. That, Lynch says, allows him and his troops to spend less effort chasing insurgents and more on helping the citizens rebuild their economy.

“I used to go to patrol bases and plan military operations. Now I walk around and talk to people,” Lynch said on a visit to this city 30 miles south of Baghdad.

It was during one of those trips that the commander of the 3rd Infantry Division said he had “a life-changing experience.” Local farmers said they needed jobs. “And I thought about how to teach them fish farming.”

Whole fish, split open and then grilled upright, is a signature dish in Baghdad restaurants. Demand has been rising as security has improved and more people venture out.

But pollution, dams and years of mismanagement of the waters in past decades cut the once abundant stocks.

Lynch saw an opportunity. Fish farming is not unknown in Iraq and creating new farms there is relatively simple. Pools are dug near the existing system of irrigation canals and the farmer fills them with fresh water. Carp or other stillwater species are introduced and, when they’re grown, farmers harvest them easily by draining the pools.

The fish farms are just part of what Lynch and his soldiers call “sustainable security.” Once fighting in an area has been suppressed and Iraqi military and police take over, the U.S. troops look for ways to make it last.

Health & Fitness

'Socialized medicine' losing its stigma

By SUSAN BRINK
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The term "socialized medicine" may be losing its boogeyman status, according to a survey of voting-age adults. Long uttered in warnings against any sort of government involvement in health care, today the term has largely lost its scare power.

That's according to a study led by Robert Blendon, professor of health policy and political analysis at the Harvard School of Public Health.

"This is a term from the 1940s," Blendon says. "We wondered if anyone even knew what it meant anymore." To find out, his team, along with pollsters at Harris Interactive, asked more than 2,000 people in two surveys what they knew about the term. Among the findings, released Feb. 14:

■ Of the respondents, 67 percent said they understood what "socialized medicine" meant. Of those, 79 percent said the term means that the government makes sure everyone has health insurance. Only 32 percent said it means that the government tells doctors what to do.

■ Of those who said they understand the term, 45 per-



cent said that if America had socialized medicine, the health care system would be better, while 39 percent said it would be worse.

■ Not surprisingly, opinions differed according to respondents' politics. Among Republicans, 70 percent thought socialized medicine would make the health care system worse. Among Democrats, 70 percent thought it would make things better.

Independents were split more evenly, with 45 percent saying that socialized medicine would be an improvement, and 38 percent saying it would be worse than the country's current health care system.

"It's still an emotionally charged term for Republicans.

The phrase itself gets them very angry," Blendon says. "But Democrats and independents don't see it as a term that drives them away."

The words "socialized medicine" have turned up at just about every discussion of government-sponsored health insurance in America's history going back to Franklin D. Roosevelt, who, after unemployment insurance and Social Security passed, wanted to develop a national health insurance program. The term was used at that time by the American Medical Association to attack the idea.

President Truman followed in FDR's footsteps with a national health insurance plan that once again was attacked by the AMA and some politicians using the

phrase; that plan died too. The phrase had its heyday in the post-World War II years and through the 1950s and 1960s, when it was tightly linked to the threat of the Soviet Union and the postwar Red Scare.

The pejorative and loaded term almost killed the famous Framingham Heart Study,

More recently, advertisements have warned against the prospect of government encroachment into health care without the actual use of the words "socialized medicine."

The Harry and Louise ads,

which began in the late 1940s and ultimately uncovered major risk factors for heart disease.

Dr. Thomas Dawber, then director of the study in Framingham, Mass., later said he had to work hard to convince volunteers and the town's doctors that the study was not a form of creeping socialized medicine. He held meetings to assure them that government wasn't going to snoop into medical records, steal patients or tell physicians how to practice their profession.

The term raised its head again through the 1960s as the American Medical Association used it in attempts to discredit government proposals to insure the elderly and the poor. Those proposals, Medicare and Medicaid, were finally signed into law in 1965, 20 years after Truman proposed national health insurance. Symbolically, Truman was the first to sign up for Medicare.

More recently, advertisements have warned against the prospect of government encroachment into health care without the actual use of the words "socialized medicine."

Former Republican candidate Mitt Romney, talking about Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's new health care proposal, labeled it "socialized medicine."

And former Republican candidate Rudolph Giuliani said, "Whether it's HillaryCare or ObamaCare or EdwardsCare, the idea that it's not socialized medicine is a trick. It's a massive growth of government control of medicine."

The phrase, says Blendon, is no longer frightening to most people. "It has sort of morphed in the American mind into making sure everyone has coverage."

The better to protect you



THE WASHINGTON POST

Open wide. A metal mouth opener isn't intended to cause injury but to prevent it.

By KATHLEEN HOM
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Open wide. A metal mouth opener isn't intended to cause injury but to prevent it. A cheek retractor, as it's called, is sometimes used during a tonsillectomy to protect the tissues around the mouth from surgical instruments and surgeons who are "not meticulous or very vigilant" during extractions, says

Albert Park, an associate professor of pediatric otolaryngology at the University of Utah.

One hazard is burns caused by cauterizing instruments used to remove the tonsils. According to a study by Park and colleagues published in last month's Archives of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, such burns are underreported. While data collected by the Primary Children's Medical

Center in Salt Lake City show burns occur in one out of every 2,500 or so tonsillectomy cases, Park's study suggests they occur four times as often.

Most burns are minor, according to the study, but some have resulted in permanent scarring or even loss of speech or the ability to swallow.

Even with a cheek retractor, "you can get an injury," Park says, but it's better than nothing.

Time to get children off bottles

By BETH WHITEHOUSE
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

Question: My twin grandsons will be 6 years old in June, and their mother still puts them to bed with whole milk in baby bottles. Is this OK?

Answer: "It's definitely not OK to be doing that, for a number of reasons," said Dr. Sara Fitzpatrick, a pediatrician at Grello Pediatrics in West Islip, N.Y.

Her opinion was echoed by Dr. Ron Kosinski, chief of pediatric dentistry at Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park, N.Y. Kosinski couldn't contain a groan when the question was posed to him.

"The first thing is the bottle," Fitzpatrick said. "Children should be weaned off the bottle by 18 months. It can significantly affect the alignment of their teeth if they're using the bottle much longer than that."

By 6, children are starting to get their permanent teeth, and that's when using the bottle will have an even bigger effect. They shouldn't even be using a bottle during the day, Fitzpatrick said.

"There's no need for a 6-year-old to be using a bottle," Fitzpatrick said. "They should be using a cup."

Second, being a grandparent, you've probably heard the old-fashioned term "baby bottle rot." That's what doctors and dentists used to call what happened to children's teeth when they were put to bed with milk in bottles. Now, dentists call it early childhood caries.

More complicated name, same unhealthy result.

"The milk lays on the teeth. The milk has natural sugars in it. The bacteria in the mouth feed on the sugar, and that causes tooth decay," Kosinski said.

If the children's mother can't stop herself from this bad habit, at least she should wipe her children's teeth with a wet washcloth immediately after they finish a bottle, and not let them fall asleep before she's done it, Kosinski said.

Juice is not OK in the bottle at bedtime, either. Nothing is OK at bedtime except water, no matter what the age of the child, Fitzpatrick and Kosinski both said.

Incidentally, the children also shouldn't be drinking whole milk at their age, Fitzpatrick said. You should encourage a change in that habit as well.

"Heart health-wise, kids over 3 should be drinking a lower-fat milk, either 1 percent, 2 percent or skim," she said. "It's good to start kids on a heart-healthy diet from a young age."

Life & Style

Nicholson films make case for Clinton



Actor Jack Nicholson talks with a guest during the Los Angeles Lakers and Miami Heat basketball game in Los Angeles Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He was The Joker in Batman, but Jack Nicholson says he wasn't fooling around when he said in "A Few Good Men" that there was nothing sexier than saluting a woman.

Nicholson, who is backing Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for president, took his endorsement to the Internet on Saturday with a humorous collection of clips that put his support into the mouths of his most film famous

Broadway actor sentenced in sex case

NEW YORK (AP)—A Broadway actor who played the beast in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" was sentenced Friday to 60 days in jail and three years' probation for sexual encounters with a 15-year-old drama student.

James Barbour pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal to two misdemeanor counts of endangering the welfare of a minor, admitting he fondled the student when she visited him alone backstage in his dressing room in June 2001, while he was starring on Broadway in "Jane Eyre."

The 41-year-old actor also acknowledged that the teen visited him the next month at his Manhattan apartment, where more sexual contact occurred. He told Judge Micki Scherer he knew then that she was 15.

Because the charges are misdemeanors, Barbour will not have to register as a sex offender.

The actor had faced charges of criminal sex act in the third degree, a felony punishable by as many as four years in prison, before the deal.

Before the sentence was imposed,



Actor James Barbour enters Manhattan criminal court, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006, in New York. AP

the victim, now 22, told the court that before she reported Barbour about two years ago, she had resigned herself to living with the shame and guilt of the experience.

Because of his actions, she said, "I

struggled with complete lack of self-esteem, panic attacks, and put considerable distance between my family and friends for years. I had always blamed myself and felt like I had done something wrong."

She said she was pleased with the sentence and hoped the punishment "will prevent him from even thinking of touching another child again."

Barbour's lawyer, Ronald P. Fischetti, took biting exception to the woman's comments, portraying her as the sexual aggressor and saying her acting career had soared after she filed the complaint against his client.

Fischetti said Barbour and the victim exchanged dozens of friendly e-mails for nearly four years after their last sexual encounter. In many, he said, she thanked Barbour for his mentoring and help in meeting people.

Fischetti insisted that his client was no pedophile, but he conceded that his client, as an adult, should have sent the girl away.

Barbour declined to speak when offered the opportunity. Fischetti's comments caused the girl to weep in court.

Works warbled in NKorea concert included child's

NEW YORK (AP)—When Farah Taslima started composing in the third grade, she never dreamed her music would be performed by the New York Philharmonic by the time she was 12. Even if she had, she never could have imagined it would happen in North Korea.

Four members of the orchestra and four North Korean musicians performed Taslima's piece on Wednesday, a day after the 106 members of the Philharmonic performed a historic concert broadcast to the world.

On Saturday morning, Farah, her sister and their parents sat in their Manhattan home talking about an congratulatory e-mail from Jon Deak, a Philharmonic double bass player who runs the orchestra's teaching program for child composers.

Her little piece, "Serenity Unleashed," was "a big hit" in Pyongyang, he wrote.

"I was just, like ... I was amazed!" Farah said. "I never thought something

for naming girls.

"I didn't know what composing was, but I loved it right off the bat," said Farah, who got her first taste of writing music after the program visited her public school four years ago.

Her family lived in Queens, and he worked odd jobs. Last year, Hossain became an NYPD traffic agent.

His wife, Shaheen, stays home and takes care of the family, whose members now live in a luxury high-rise behind Lincoln Center that offers some apartments at affordable rents; they won theirs by lottery.

Another daughter, 18-year-old Sarah, attends Columbia University on scholarship.

Farah's electronic piano stands right outside the bedroom the sisters shared until Sarah went to college. An image of Hannah Montana hangs above the desk with other pop stars, but since she started writing music, Farah also listens to Beethoven and



Twelve-year-old composer Farah Taslima, of New York, smiles as she is interviewed at her Manhattan apartment, Saturday March 1, 2008. AP

like this would happen. It was awesome."

The orchestra returned to New York on Thursday from the rare visit to North Korea, which is locked in frosty negotiations with the United States over its nuclear weapons program. It was the biggest American delegation to visit the communist country since the Korean War.

Farah's music almost didn't get played, says Deak, who waited to see whether Korean authorities would allow the child's piece to be added to a long-planned performance in a packed hall.

"It was a wild-card thing," said Deak, who called the piece, written by the daughter of an NYPD traffic enforcement agent, "a tiny gem."

Farah had originally written it for the entire Philharmonic two years ago, and it was played at one of the orchestra's Young People's Concerts at Lincoln Center. But she scaled down the work for a smaller group of musicians—clarinet, violin, cello and double bass, including the Philharmonic's top violinist, concertmaster Glenn Dicterow.

It was no small achievement for the daughter of Khondaker Hossain, who moved to the United States from Bangladesh 11 years ago when Farah was a baby. Her last name is different from his, following a Bangladeshi tradition

other classics with her family.

The budding composer, barefoot and in jeans, walked up to the black-and-white keys to improvise some new melodies, with some Asian-sounding intervals echoing the music of her roots.

She has not been back to Bangladesh since her family left Dhaka, the capital, but said that "Serenity" was inspired by her parents' stories about her native land in their Bengali language.

"It begins quietly, then it gets crazy and out of control, like the busy feeling of Bangladesh, always on the move," she said. "And then it goes back to quiet."

Farah, who attends a gifted children's school at Manhattan's M.S. 54, started composing at P.S. 199, where Deak—also a composer—introduced his Very Young Composers program, sponsored by the orchestra.

The kids played their recorders to try out tunes, and even if they didn't know how to read or write music well, they were helped by composer Paola Prestini to write down what they sang, played and clapped out.

"Real music is happening on the streets every day—kids pound, they sing, they dance. I want to bring that in—the raw sounds that come out of children's voices," says Deak, 64. "I'm looking into their hearts. That's the miracle."

Report: J. Lo's twins named Max and Emme

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony have reportedly named their newborn twins Max and Emme.

Lopez' manager, Simon Fields, confirmed the babies' names to People magazine on Friday.

The twins were born at a Long Island hospital on Feb. 22, with 5-pound, 7-ounce Emme arriving about 15 minutes before her 6-pound brother. The hospital's name was not disclosed.

Fields said then that Lopez, a first-time mother at 39, was "thrilled" at the babies' arrival. The 38-year-old Anthony has three other children.

The Latin music power couple married in 2004.

The babies arrived a day after both their parents were named as winners of Latin music's "Premio Lo Nuestro" awards. Lopez won this year's award for best solo pop singer, while Anthony was named salsa artist of the year.



AP
Marc Anthony and his wife Jennifer Lopez pose together at "Movies Rock: A Celebration of Music in Film," in Los Angeles, in this Dec. 2, 2007, file photo.

Rapper 'shocked' by daughter's killing

ATLANTA (AP)—The rap star Juvenile is "shocked and devastated" by the shooting death of his young daughter, the girl's mother and another child, his manager said Saturday.

The 32-year-old rapper is still trying to cope with the death of 4-year-old Jelani; her mother, 39-year-old Joy Deleston; and the woman's daughter Micaiah, 11, whose bodies were found Thursday night in their home, said manager Aubrey Francis.

"It really shocked him and devastated him to the point where I've never seen him before," Francis said. "Right now he is relaxing and trying to grasp everything of what has happened."

Meanwhile, 17-year-old Anthony Tyrone Terrell Jr. is being held in the DeKalb County jail, charged in the deaths of his mother—a Gwinnett County sheriff's deputy—and siblings at the home near Lawrenceville, outside Atlanta. He was arrested Friday.

Deleston brought a paternity lawsuit in 2004, claiming that Juvenile, whose real name is



AP
Juvenile is photographed in the Atlantic Records artist's lounge in New York in this Dec. 16, 2005

Juvenile was the father.

Juvenile, who is in New Orleans, had been making regular child support payments, Francis said.

In 1998, Juvenile released his third album, "400 Degreez," which sold 4 million copies. At

one time he was part of the four-man group The Hotboyz, along with Lil Wayne, Young Turk and B.G.

Attorney Randy Kessler, who represented Juvenile in the paternity suit, said Saturday he had not talked with the rapper about the killings.

"Any time you have a situation like that, it's shocking," Kessler said.

Terrell was taken to jail in neighboring DeKalb County to avoid any potential conflict because Deleston worked for Gwinnett County, said Lawrenceville police spokeswoman Illana Spellman. She could not confirm Friday whether Deleston's service weapon was used.

Because of his age, prosecutors cannot seek the death penalty against Terrell. A preliminary hearing will be set next week in Gwinnett County Superior Court, prosecutor Danny Porter said.

Defense attorney Lyle Porter did not return calls Friday and Saturday.

has dishonored their father's memory.

But his daughter, Joni Jenkins Riels, said that nothing was explained and that they didn't know what rights they were giving up.

"Dad had a long relationship with Sony. We tried to work with them, but it didn't work out. So, we had to file the lawsuit," Riels said Friday.

The children could get more than \$100,000 a year from the recordings if they were to get the copyrights back, says Rose Palermo, a lawyer for his estate, who added that she was concerned about the claims in the lawsuit.



AP
Country singer Conway Twitty performs in this Aug. 19, 1985, file photo. The children of the late Conway Twitty have sued Sony/ATV for a share of royalties and publishing copyrights for the country artist's music, Friday, Feb. 29, 2008.

battle over his estate after his death, which the children eventually lost.

She said Friday that the family knew what they signed 18 years ago and that their lawsuit

to order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Active mom's kidney disease comes as unwelcome surprise

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I was a healthy, vibrant mother of one with a steady government job. I saw my doctor regularly for checkups, since both my parents have high blood pressure. As an active, health-conscious vegetarian, I thought I was at my physical peak.

When I experienced nausea and lower back pain, I expected my doctor to tell me my 4-year-old daughter was going to have a sister or brother. Instead, I was informed that my kidneys were barely working and I needed to see a specialist at once. That's when my life began spinning out of control. I was told I would need dialysis to keep me alive!

How could this happen? Where were the warning signs and symptoms? Why wasn't my kidney function checked during previous doctor visits? There were no answers to these questions.

No one in my family was able to donate a kidney to me because everyone had high blood pressure. So I went on dialysis and learned everything I could about kidney disease. After 10 years of dialysis, I finally received a successful kidney transplant.

Many people don't realize that high blood pressure and diabetes are the two leading causes of kidney disease. More than 26 million Americans have chronic kidney disease, and millions more are at risk. Screening for kidney function is not part of a routine physical examination, and kidney disease generally shows no symptoms—so if you have a family history of high blood pressure or diabetes, you are at risk.

Simple blood and urine tests could save your life. So please don't put off what you can take care of today. Tomorrow could be too late.

DAWN P. EDWARDS, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.

Wynonna Judd holds storm victim benefit

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP)—Wynonna Judd knows what the people of Tennessee went through the night the tornadoes hit—because she took cover from them herself.

Her children Elijah and Grace hid in a storage area under the stairs when the storms swept through this month, and she hung on outside their cubbyhole as the winds shook the house, the country singer said.



"Our road looks like a war zone. It's pretty bad," said Judd, who headlined a benefit concert Friday for residents affected by the tornado.

The concert was held in Leiper's Fork and raised more than \$17,000, said organizer Lynn Fox, who also performed with his group The Fox Brothers.

The tornadoes swept across Tennessee on Feb. 5-6, killing 32 people and injuring more than 190. A total of more than 50 people were killed across the South.

Judd, who lives on an 800-acre farm, said the storm damaged her home, knocked down several trees and tore off part of a barn roof.

DEAR DAWN: Thank you for your informative eye-opener of a letter. I am pleased that you finally got your kidney transplant because I know what a life-changing difference it has made for you and your daughter—truly a new beginning.

Readers, March is National Kidney Month, and March 13 is World Kidney Day. That's the day the National Kidney Foundation holds free screenings in 30 cities across the country. The screening program is called "KEEP," or Kidney Early Evaluation Program.

You can learn more about kidney disease by visiting www.kidney.org. To find the KEEP screening nearest you, log onto www.keeponline.org, or call the National Kidney Foundation toll-free at 800-622-9010.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been going through a very selective interview process toward getting the job of my dreams. The problem is, I have a vacation planned for three months from now. When is the correct time to inform my prospective employer of this preplanned, prepaid and non-refundable trip? (It's my husband's dream vacation, and I would hate to have to let him down.)

MS. PROFESSIONAL IN CLEVELAND, GA.

DEAR MS. PROFESSIONAL: Inform your prospective employer immediately that you have a prepaid vacation planned. The person doing the hiring will respect you for doing so, and you should not lose out on the "job of your dreams."

I am speaking from personal experience when I say this because when I hired my personal assistant, Sherry, she let me know during the interview that she had not one but two trips planned. I respected her candor, hired her, and consider her to be one of the major blessings in my life.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



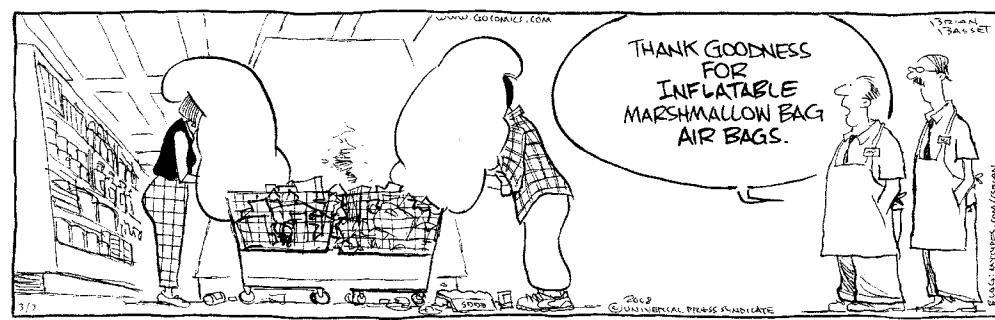
Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	Squirms	DOWN	25	"American
1 Mayonnaise container	41	Joie de vivre	1	Door-frame	—"
4 Taxi	43	Gist	26	Inlet	
7 Court-room document	44	Cover presents	27	"Jabberwocky"	
11 Acknowledge	46	Chocolate + coffee	28	start	
13 Bobby of hockey fame	50	Yuletide trio	29	Docket entry	
14 Pit	53	Anger	30	Swiss range	
15 Netting	55	Calendar quota	31	Call a halt to	
16 Often fruity dessert	56	First victim	32	Without further ado	
17 Not busy	57	Pal of Wynken and Blynken	33	Triumph	
18 Plait	58	Thin	34	Sandwich essential	
20 Moist	59	Cloak of gloom	35	Evergreen	
22 Household critter	60	Smallest prime number	36	40 Wrigley product	
24 Draw	61	Have a go at	42	Adulterate	
28 "Sea" that's really a lake			43	Ship's front	
32 Word with "merry" or "black"			44	Welshman, e.g.	
33 Saxophone range			45	Barber-shop sweepings	
34 Arrow launcher			46	Point team	
36 PBS science series			47	Navigator's aid	
37 Parody			48	Teager	
			49	West Point	
			50	Adversary	
			51	The — Daba Honeymoon"	
			52	Solidify	
			53	Tarpon	
			54	Tokyo's old name	

Solution time: 24 mins.



Saturday's answer 3-3

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Biel, 26; Jackie Joyner-Kersee, 46; Herschel Walker, 46; Ira Glass, 49

Happy Birthday: Stick to what and whom you know this year and you can form solid partnerships and alliances. Teamwork will help you through the challenges. Keep things out in the open where you can readily deal with them before they grow into something too hard to handle. Avoid controversy and you will excel. Your numbers are 4, 13, 17, 20, 31, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't count on getting support from others. You are more likely to get a critical response to what you do. An emotional situation with someone who can influence your future is likely. ☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be taken advantage of if you are too willing to help out. A short trip that will help you acquire valuable information or putting your efforts into learning something that will complement the skills you already have, should be your intent today. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stick to your original plan. If you start to change your mind, the people you deal with will become nervous or back away from helping you. Be inventive and you will find inexpensive solutions that will heighten your profile. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take advantage of an offer. Money can be made and deals struck if you are willing to make a few changes. A serious talk with someone you

respect will help you see the potential and the pitfalls in something you want to pursue. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Rethink your strategy for making money. You may want to take a more industrious approach to work or to projects that show potential. A part time job may be an option. Don't let love cost you. ☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a forceful approach to whatever you do to ensure that the job gets done. An opportunity will develop because of your practical yet aggressive nature. A change in one of your relationships will be a good thing. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Opposition or being taken advantage of at home will occur if you let someone rule your domain. Get out of the house today. Socialize, work on a creative project, begin a new hobby or just focus on love and meeting new friends. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take what loved ones say to heart. Chances are the people closest to you will not get what you are trying to accomplish. Get out and meet people who are interested in your ideas or are working on similar projects. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may want to set standards or do things a little differently today but it will be a serious and conservative approach that will get the job done. Don't take chances when it comes to your livelihood. ☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get the facts first and you will see soon enough that there is

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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something beneficial to the situation you face. Money can be made if you are steadfast with your plan of attack. Now is the time to take advantage of someone else's loss, even though that sounds cutthroat. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone around you has a hidden agenda. Don't be too willing to accommodate others. Wait and see what everyone else does before making a move. Your charm will help you. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Give and take will be required to get what you want. A serious look at a partnership that once had potential will help you come to terms with how you can reunite. You can make strategic moves that will help your cash flow. ☀

Birthday Baby: You are an industrious dreamer. You are imaginative yet practical. You are entertaining and exceptionally charming. You invite change and can stabilize any situation.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1			8	7	2	4		
	8	2	6		3			
4			1		8			
3			7			2		
1	9							
8		3			1			
7		8			9			
9		5	4	1				
5	1	3	9		6			

Difficulty Level ★

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	6	9	3	8	5	2	1
3	9	8	1	2	5	7	4	6
5	2	1	6	7	4	3	8	9
9	3	7	5	4	6	2	1	8
6	4	2	7	8	1	9	5	3
1	8	5	2	9	3	4	6	7
2	6	4	3	1	9	8	7	5
7	5	3	8	6	2	1	9	4
8	1	9	4	5	7	6	3	2

Difficulty Level ****

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CLEANING A HOT TUB

Solution: 9 letters

F	H	N	D	H	A	I	R	E	H	G	T	C	I	K
L	O	I	L	S	S	E	N	S	D	E	U	H	A	E
U	S	A	I	D	G	I	I	N	L	B	O	E	C	
S	E	R	M	U	H	L	T	S	O	S	S	R	P	A
H	O	D	L	S	O	O	S	G	C	N	A	E	R	F
S	H	A	M	P	O	O	N	R	O	C	F	S	O	R
C	R	S	P	L	L	I	A	I	R	B	E	D	D	U
H	F	N	S	G	T	P	T	E	R	E	T	U	S	
E	S	I	E	S	E	A	M	O	L	Y	B	C	P	
D	R	A	E	P	L	M	M	B	S	C	R	T	R	
U	E	T	W	U	I	I	H	U	I	P	E	I	S	A
L	T	S	C	K	N	W	S	R	O	E	S	W	Y	
E	L	R	S	E	C	T	U	C	N	L	I	N	E	S
F	I	N	I	S	H	A	R	S	S	T	N	E	G	A
C	F	H	C	A	E	L	B	R	O	U	T	I	N	E

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3/3

Agents, Backwash, Bleach, Bromine, Brush, Care, Chores, Circulations, Cold, Corrosion, Debris, Drain, Filters, Finish, Flush, Foams, Gels, Gloss, Hair, Hose, Lines, Oils, Polish, Products, Regular, Routine, Safety, Schedule, Scrape, Screens, Scrub, Shampoo, Shine, Skimmer, Soap, Sponge, Sprays, Stains, Suds, Surface, Swirl, Testing, Tools, Tubs, Wipe

CLASSIFIED ADS



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Apartment Room for Rent
2 bed room \$230.00, Koblerville.
Contact: 288-0728.

EMPLOYMENT

USSP Club Needs
(1) Bartender, (2) Waitresses
More Info: Call Rose/233-1984

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.
(SM 0001)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. @234-7492.

1 ELECTRICIAN (SM 0002)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. @234-7492.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE
(SM 0003)
Salary:\$615.33-\$750.00/monthly. Benefits: ER provide housing; self provide food; w/transportation service; worksmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Island Investment Inc. @234-6089.

1 AIRCON & REF. TECH.
(SM 0004)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: E.C Entertainment & Promo Inc. dba Woolwich Auto Shop @235-3072/5.

1 HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT (SM 0005)
Salary:\$3.55-\$8.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Brilliant Star Montessori School dba Brilliant Star School @288-1312.

1 MAINTENANCE WORKER (SM 0006)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Brilliant Star Montessori School dba Brilliant Star School @323-7827.

1 CARPENTER (SM 0007)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities \$10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 ELECTRICIAN (SM 0008)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities \$10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 CARPENTER (SM 0009)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities \$10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 MASON (SM 0010)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities \$10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 CABLE SPLICER (SM 0011)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities \$10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SM 0012)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities \$10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 COOK HELPER (SM 0013)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical covered under workers compensation. Contact: Robert J. Bracken dba Spicy Thai Noodle Place @235-8603.

WHATZIT Solution: Flip-flops

compensation provided. Contact: Martha's Retail Shop Inc. @234-9774.

2 EXECUTIVE CHEF (SM 0014)

Salary:\$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical covered under workers compensation. Contact: Robert J. Bracken dba Spicy Thai Noodle Place @235-8603.

1 FOUNTAIN SERVER (SM 0015)

Salary:\$3.70/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical. Contact: 3's Inc. dba Hula Girl @234-3533.

1 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR (MW 0001)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Twin Star Gift Shop @484-0616.

3 STOREKEEPER (MW 0002)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workman's

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (MW 0003)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits:

Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's

compensation provided. Contact: LHD Corporation dba Tease @233-8838.

4 SINGER (MW 0004)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Ameriana Corporation dba Club Happiness @234-6913.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR LAUNDRY REPAIR

• Lawn Mower • Generator Repair
• Boat Engine • Bush Cutter Repair
• Motor Bike • Rewinding

233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week
9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Ever thought of a Career in Healthcare?

Are you outgoing, bright and friendly?

You may have what it takes to join the team of Eye Care Assistants at Marianas Eye Institute!

No healthcare experience needed. We will train you!

Requirements:

- US Citizen or IR Status
- High school diploma with a GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Police Clearance
- Previous work experience
- Computer Skills
- Credit Check
- Bright and friendly
- Letter of recommendation from previous employer

Great work environment, great benefits!

Apply in person at...



Marianas Eye Institute
Where Technology Meets Talent™

Garapan, across from 13 Fisherman Monument
No Phone Calls Please

Benefits:

- Competitive salary
- Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Productivity Bonuses
- Profit Sharing
- Generous Leave Benefits
- Paid Holidays

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ЕГОЬ ЕГОЬ

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Find today's solution in this section

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

- 3-Liner
- 5-Liner
- 3-Liner with picture
- 5-Liner with picture

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

- \$25
- \$35
- \$45
- \$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku**

NOTISIAN PRINIPONEN ATKILON TÅNO' PUBLIKU

Segun i Lai Publiku 15-2, I Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku man-nåñå'i' notisia pot i intension para ma'atkilan tano' publiku giya Saipan, Commonwealth Sankatan siha na Islas Marianas. Maseha häye na petsona interesao, siña munha halom opinion, infotmasion, yan kinentra pot i mapropone na atkilon tano' publiku. I mapropone i siguiente siha.

- i. Para una'atkila tano' publiku madeskrive kumo i numiron propiadåt 003 A 11, konsiste kuårentai-nuebe mit kuåttro sientos sikuñta-nuebe metro (49,459) square meters, 003 A 20, ha konsiste kuårentai-nuebe mit, kinientos tres (49,503) square meters, 003 A 19, ha konsiste dies mit (10,000) square meters, mas o' menos ni gaige giya Marpi, Saipan. Kopian i lugåt i sitiù gaige gi Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku ni libre hao umina.
- ii. I para u inatkila este na tano i Win DnC. Co., LTD, un koporasion gi CNMI. I kuetpon direktot siha i siguiente: Youngjai Kim, Kwon Hee Lee, yan si Kwi Dong Woo.
- iii. I presidente yan treseru i koporasion si Youngjai Kim. I segundo presidente si Kwon Hee Lee; sekritaria si Kwi Dong Woo.
- iv. Si Señor Youngjai Kim (Presidente yan Treseru), Kwon Hee Lee (segundon i Presidente) yan si Kwi Dong Woo (Sekritario), munigosiu i kontratan atkilon.
- v. I para u inatkila i lugåt debi de u usa solamente para u håtsa ya u establesi un hotel yan otto siha fasilitåt.
- vi. I mapropone na tiempon kontråtan atkilon para bente-siñko åños (25 yrs.), yan appotunidad ma-ekstiende para talo kinse åños (15 yrs.).
- vii. I mapropone na åpas atkilon gi sakkan duråtan i tiempo signu i mapega na presiu segun i balin i lugåt.
- viii. I kabåles na kopian i mapropone na kontråtan atkilon siña un chule gi ofisinan I Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku, ni gaige gi mina dos na bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, giya Saipan, mina dos bienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building giya Luta, fine'nina na bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building giya Tinian.
- ix. Taya otro propositu guaha pot kontråtan atkilon tano' publiku ni tineteka iya Marpi, Saipan.
- x. I Sekretarion Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku siempre hu aksepta tinige' opinion, mensåhen kinentra yan testimonio osino otro siha na propositu genin i man-interesao na petsona åntes de Matsu 6, 2008 gi Ofisinan Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku siha ni gaige giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sångi Tålil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaol eghus falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téel Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mangámangiir, awwewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awwewe kka rebwe mwetti ngali milikka ebwe akkataélo.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No. 003 A 11, eyor faigh me tiwow sangaras fabwuhu limeigh me tiwow llapal (49,459 square meters), elap me ngáre eghus, Lot No. 003 A 20, faigh me tiwoo sangaras, lima bwughuw elluw (49,503) sq. meters llapal, elap me ngare eghus, me Lot No. 003 A 19, seigh sangaras (10,000) sq. meters, llapal, elap me eghus, elo Máscépi, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschél akkilon nge Win DnC Co., LTD., corporation. Schóól Assamwoolol mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Youngjai Kim, Kwon Hee Lee me Kwidong Woo.
- iii. Samwoolol (President me Treasurer) corporation nge Youngjai Kim. Vice President nge Kwon Hee Lee. Sekkretorio nge Kwidong Woo.
- iv. Schóól awweel akkilon nge Youngjai Kim (Samwoolol me Treasurer), Kwon Hee Lee (Vice President) me Kwidong Woo (Sekkretorio) corporation yeel.
- v. Schóól akkilon ebwe yáyá bwuley ngali schagh akkayul hotel me akkaw iimw kka a fillong.
- vi. Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).
- vii. Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sångi llapal méel falúw (value of the property).
- viii. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwatal pwó(2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwatal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúluyó.
- ix. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esaál bweibwogh mwo akkáaw pomwol akkilon yeel me Máscépi, Seipél.
- x. Samwoolol Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil awwewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amwéyt aramas mmwal schagh Ghúuw(Móózo) 6, 2007 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúluyó..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 003 A 11, containing an area of approximately 49,459 square meters, more or less, Lot No. 003 A 20, containing an area of approximately 49,503 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 003 A 19, containing an area of approximately 10,000 square meters, situated in Marpi, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The prospective lessee is Win DnC Co., LTD., a CNMI corporation. The board of directors of the corporation are Youngjai Kim, Kwon Hee Lee, and Kwidong Woo.
- iii. The president and treasurer of the corporation is Youngjai Kim. The vice president is Kwon Hee Lee. The secretary is Kwidong Woo.
- iv. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Youngjai Kim, Mr. Kwon Hee Lee, and Mr. Kwidong Woo, president/treasurer, vice president, and secretary, respectively, of the corporation.
- v. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of constructing and developing a hotel and related facilities.
- vi. The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.
- vii. The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.
- viii. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- ix. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Marpi, Saipan.
- x. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 6, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

4 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0005)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Ameriana Corporation dba Club Happiness @234-6913.

1 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER (MW 0006)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Ameriana Corporation @234-6913.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (MW 0007)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; employer provided workers compensation insurance & medical. Contact: Genpro International, Inc. @288-3820.

3 COOK (MW 0008)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Emperor Enterprises Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant @233-3333.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (MW 0009)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Emperor Enterprises Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant @233-3333.

1 GARDENER (MW 0010)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: James/Penny Hofschneider @234-8040.

2 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (MW 0011)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation; bonding & medical (as per contract). Contact: Philpan International Corp. dba MC-Asia Int'l @235-6100/6695.

1 VIDEO OPERATOR (SM 0016)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: KP Enterprises, Inc. dba KP's Mart, KP Video Tape Production, KP Video, KP Accounting & Book Keeping @323-5568/433-2534.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (SM 0017)
Salary:\$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; surety bond; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: ASG Corporation dba Elite Printing @288-6465/2677.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SM 0018)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Minami Kaze Corporation dba Minami Kaze Saipan @234-2101.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (SM 0019)
Salary:\$700.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Milne & Reyes Enterprises @235-6657.

1 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (SM 0020)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical; workmen's compensation & transportation self provided. Contact: Silk Road Corporation dba Saipan Country Club @234-8718.

3 GROUNDSKEEPER (SM 0021)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical; workmen's compensation & transportation self provided. Contact: Silk Road Corporation dba Saipan Country Club @234-8718.

1 PACKER (SM 0022)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 UPHOLSTERER (SM 0023)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Sikayun Virginia G. dba 3A's Polyshine @235-8938.

1 TECHNICIAN AUTO (AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORIES INSTALLER) (SM 0024)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; workmen compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Sikayun Virginia G. dba 3A's Polyshine @235-8938.

1 CARPENTER (MW 0012)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 AUTO PAINTER (MW 0013)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 TOUR GUIDE (COORDINATOR) (MW 0014)
Salary:\$3.90/hour. Benefits: \$75.00/housing allowance; \$50.00/gas allowance; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 DRIVER, TRACTOR, TRAILER, TRUCK (MW 0015)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 OPERATION MANAGER (MW 0016)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE/REPAIRER (MW 0017)
Salary:\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation employer provided. Contact: Gualo Rai Center, Inc. @234-6552.

1 BAKER (MW 0018)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Duties: Specializes in baking of pizzas. Must be familiar with proper temperatures and ingredients. Must be familiar with proper kitchen preparation & clean-ups. Must be familiar & knowledgeable in proper dough rising times for each specialized dough & related duties with the position of baker. Benefits: Company provided housing; self arranged food; workers compensation & medical provided. Annual vacation, after one year of continuous employment & transportation self provided. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

1 WAITER/WAITRESS (MW 0019)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Duties: May assist in seating, setting-up & cleaning tables, answering questions to customers and other related duties assigned or required with the position of being a waiter. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; self provided transportation; annual vacation after one (1) year of continuous employment, workers compensation & medical provided. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

3 SHIFT MANAGERS (MW 0020)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.85/hour. Duties: Performs assigned supervisory duties to ensure effective unit operation, monitor and ensures FAST customer service, he/she interacts effectively with customers by following verbal customer complaint procedure should it be necessary. Monitors and ensures ingredients and products are prepared according to specifications while maintaining adequate inventory levels, while monitoring and ensuring restaurant cleanliness. Ensures adherence to cash control procedures. Complete and uses position sheet to make job assignments while directing the activities of all employees. Ensures compliance with all PIZZA HUT, INC. policies and procedures.

Adequately staffs restaurant to meet projected sales. Is responsible for the smooth operation and efficient running of the restaurant during his/her shift. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; self arranged transportation, workers compensation and medical provided, annual vacation after one year of continuous employment. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

3 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER REST. (MW 0021)

Salary:\$3.55-\$8.24/hour. Duties: Accountabilities:

- I. Manages Restaurant Environment
 - A. Maintain positive customer relations.
 1. Ensures prompt, friendly and courteous service.
 2. Ability to make adjustments to meet projected sales
 3. Directs activities to employees during peak revenue periods.
 4. Handles verbal customer complaints (advise manager).
- B. Ensures quality products
 1. Ensures products are made to Hawaii Pizza Hut, Inc. specifications.
 2. Supervise correct amounts and quality of ingredients prep to meet protected sales.

C. Maintains physical plant

1. Organizes work areas to ensure ease of operations.
2. Maintains restaurant cleanliness
3. Advise restaurant manager regarding nonroutine problems
4. Maintains opening/closing/shift change checklist

D. In-restaurant marketing programs

1. Provides input for promotional ideas.
2. Maintain positive community relations
3. Maintains point of sales material

II. Manages Employee Performance

- A. Recruits interview and select employees
1. Participates in new employee orientation
2. Participates and conducts group training sessions
3. Participate and conducts group training sessions.
4. Advise manager of employee training sessions
5. Maintains positive involvement in all areas of training

B. Communicates and gives instructions

1. Gives instructions to employees to meet job requirements
2. Enforce all company policies and procedures
3. Set a positive example for employees
4. Supervise work
 1. Make job assignments
 2. Observes performance of employees
 3. Take corrective actions to ensure acceptable employee performance (advise manager)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES 

D. Gives feedback
 1. Teaches employee non-negotiable standards of performance
 2. Provides feedback to manager
 3. Participates in formal performance review

E. Maintains positive labor relations

1. Assures compliance with minimum wage/child labor/ OSHA/EEO/FLSA policies and procedures
 2. Informs employee of available company benefits
 3. Responds to employee complaints (advise manager)
 4. Promotes teamwork

D. Maintains controls

A. Participates in planning and budgeting

1. Participates in planning and budgeting
 2. Participates in planning master schedule

B. Controls labor hours and cost

1. Identifies deviation from desired results
 2. Develops and executes corrective action plans (corresponds with manager)

C. Controls cost of sales to budget

1. Identifies deviation from desired results
 2. Develops and executes corrective action plans (corresponds with manager)

D. Controls semi-variables to budget

1. Identifies deviation from desired results
 2. Develops and executes corrective action plans (corresponds with manager)

E. Maintains required daily/weekly/period financial controls

1. Submits accurate reports
 Complies with cash controls procedure. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

1. FOOD SERVICE MANAGER (MW 0022)

Salary: \$1,000.00-\$3,740.84/ monthly. Duties: Job Summary: The Restaurant General Manager reports directly to the Multi-Unit Supervisor. He/she provides overall leadership and direct supervision of operations in an individual Pizza Hut unit to ensure that the restaurant meets or exceeds its Annual Operating Plan. Focal points include: Driving excellence in customer service, maintaining company standards in product and facility specifications, supervising food handling procedures and operational processes, exercising financial control to meet unit profit margin targets, and selecting, training, developing and motivating employees. The Restaurant General Manager directly performs hands-on operational work (as necessary) to train employees, respond to customer service needs, or otherwise role model appropriate skills and behaviors in the restaurant.

Essential Functions:

1. Customer Satisfaction/Product Quality
 • Maintains fast, accurate service, positive guest relations and ensures products are consistent with company quality standards
 • Drives customer-focused culture by serving as role model in resolving customer issues and training managers and crew to meet or exceed customer service standards.
 • Tracks, analyzes, and resolves sources of customer complaints.
 • Ensures that food safety standards are met.

2. Financial
 • Develops and drives restaurant Annual Operating Plan.
 • Analyzes sales, labor, inventory, and controllables on a continual basis and takes corrective action to meet or achieve margin and sales growth targets.
 • Trains and mentors subordinates on financial analyses and profitability tips for the restaurant.
 • Develops store CAPEX requests and is the principle interface with all vendors.

3. Operations
 • Ensures that facilities and equipment are maintained to Pizza Hut standards
 • Monitors inventory, food preparation, and order fulfillment on a daily basis to ensure adherence to company standards.
 • Establishes restaurant Speed of Service targets, monitors performance, and resolves bottlenecks to achieve SOS goals
 • Oversees development and revision of weekly management and crew schedules

4. Human Resources
 • Directs all restaurant-level HR activity including: Personal accountability for crew hiring decisions, STP planning and execution, performance management, compensation, and employee relations issues up to and including termination
 • Provides "hands-on" training for management staff in advanced STP modules and develops all Shift Managers and Assistant Restaurant General Managers incumbents to assume higher level responsibilities
 • Develops and monitors staffing plans and directs crew sourcing activities.
 • Manages the work environment on all shifts to ensure fair and equitable employee treatment, as well as adherence to all company, state, and federal workplace regulations

Success Measures:

1. Achievement of Restaurant Annual HQSC performance to plan
 2. Financial results to annual plan
 3. Margin Improvement and Sales Growth
 4. Weekly/Period Restaurant Performance in Sales, Labor, ICOS, and Controllables
 5. STP Certification Levels, Management Turnover, and Staff Levels
 6. STP Certification Levels, Crew Turnover, and Staff Levels
 7. IMD/personal goals achievement

Knowledge/Skill Requirements

1. Delivers Excellence in Customer Service
 • Is fully aware of customer needs and ensures that they receive quality products and service. Ensures work is to the correct standard
 • Possesses extremely high standards of product quality and speed of service and constantly monitors performance against those standards
 • Possesses a strong eye for detail and cleanliness
 • Presents a positive image through tidy and professional appearance of self and other employees
 • Interacts with customers in a high effective and proactive manner
 • Consistently seeks to improve the customer experience.

• Demonstrates and emphasizes to others the importance of a winning customer experience.
 • Uses customer feedback tools and techniques in making decisions and improving restaurant performance

1 COOK (KOREAN CUISINE) (MW 0023)

Salary: \$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self-ranged housing; self-arranged food; medical & workers' compensation provided by employer. Contact: Yokyung Corporation dba Mi Dang Restaurant @235-0077.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

State Board of Education
 Public School System
 P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 08-017

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Construction of a Concrete One Story Building for the San Antonio Head Start Center**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-017" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-017, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and one copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Building, on February 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Pre-Bid Conference Schedule is subject to change.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-025

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Classroom Furniture and Audio Equipment for Saipan Southern High School, Saipan**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-025" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 11, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-025, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via the following fax number: (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp. Questions shall be submitted at least three (3) business days prior to the deadline to submit bids.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 or 3035.

Bidders are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Jets give All-Pro guard Faneca big deal



NEW YORK

(AP)—The New York Jets and Pro Bowl left guard Alan Faneca agreed to terms on a five-year, \$40 million contract Saturday, making the former Pittsburgh player the highest-paid offensive lineman in the NFL.

Agent Rick Smith told The Associated Press on Saturday that the 31-year-old Faneca planned to fly to New York on Sunday, take a physical and officially sign the deal Monday. After making nearly \$4.4 million in salary and bonuses last season, Faneca got a huge deal that Smith said includes \$21 million in guarantees.

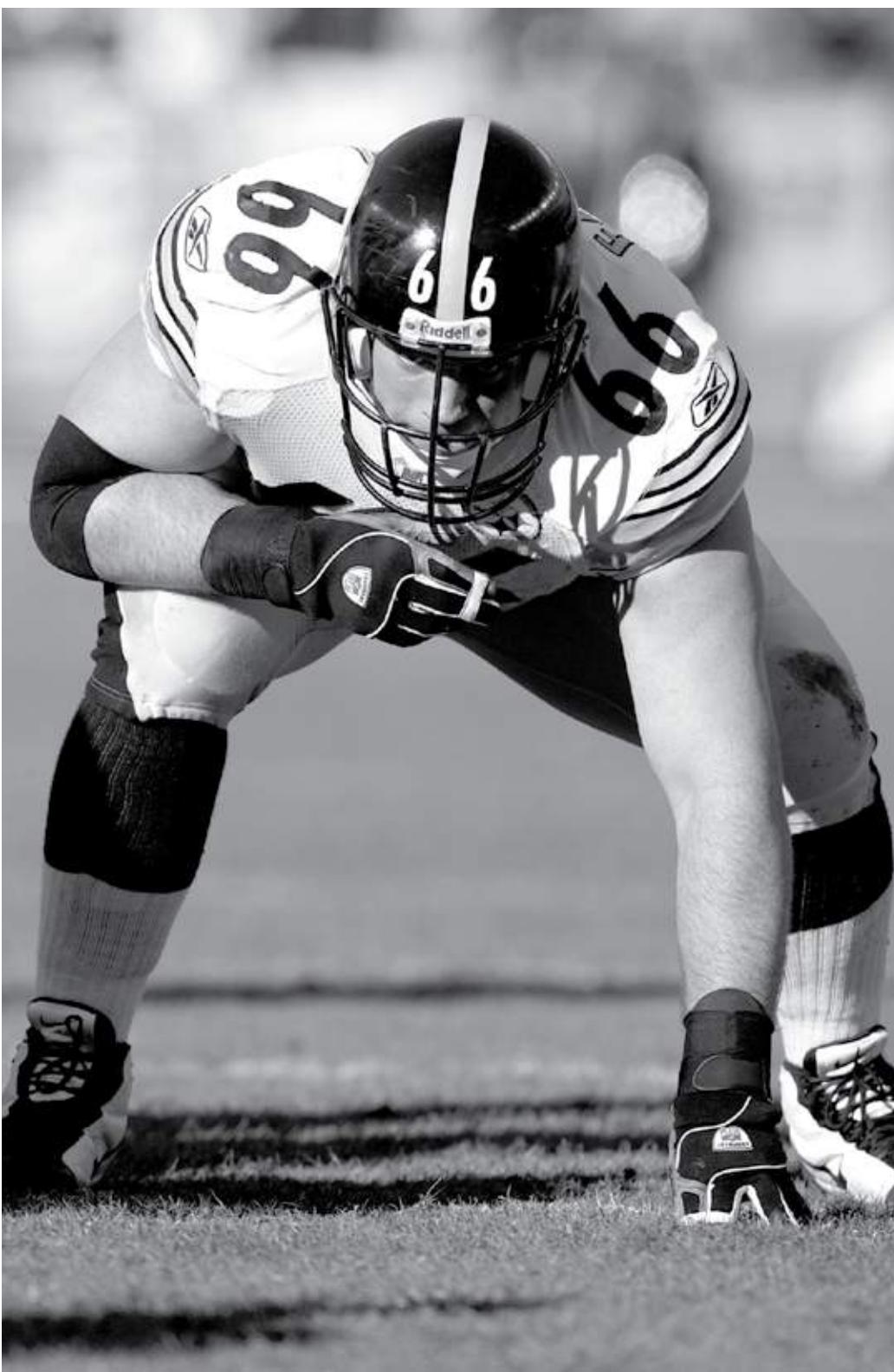
A Jets spokesman declined comment on the signing of the seven-time Pro Bowl selection, considered perhaps the league's best left guard.

Faneca chose New York over San Francisco and St. Louis, all teams that had losing records last season and need help on their offensive lines.

"When he examined the situations, Alan felt this team would make the biggest impact," Smith said.

New York sorely needed a standout left guard after trading Pete Kendall to Washington following a bitter contract dispute before last season. They plugged in the since-released Adrien Clarke, who was ineffective while starting the first 14

AP
Pittsburgh Steelers offensive guard Alan Faneca in action during the AFC championship football game against the Denver Broncos in this Jan. 22, 2006 file photo, in Denver.



Bills acquire DT Stroud from Jaguars

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—With big-bodied Marcus Stroud now securing the middle of the Buffalo Bills defensive line, it'll be much tougher for opponents to push them around.

"It helps us out tremendously," Bills defensive coordinator Perry Fewell said Saturday, shortly after the Bills acquired the three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle in a trade with Jacksonville. "He's a guy that will take on two people on offense, so you definitely have to game-plan against him."

That's the type of player the Bills haven't had since losing Pat Williams to free agency in 2004.

Stroud's addition becomes the Bills' latest and most significant move to revamp a porous defense that finished 31st in the NFL in yards allowed last season.

To acquire Stroud, who had Jacksonville's permission to seek a trade, Buffalo gave up an undisclosed number of draft

picks. FoxSports.com is reporting they will be a third- and fifth-round selection in this year's draft.

Listed at 6-foot-6 and 310 pounds, Stroud immediately solidifies what had been an undersized defensive line that was manhandled last season and unable to take the pressure off star pass-rushing defensive end Aaron Schobel.

The Bills also signed former Minnesota defensive tackle Spencer Johnson to a five-year contract, a day after signing former New York Giants linebacker Kawika Mitchell to a five-year deal and releasing veteran defensive tackle Larry Tripplett.

"It certainly has been an exhilarating 36 hours," Bills chief operating officer Russ Brandon said. "We're thrilled. We're excited to add to our football team, add to our defense."

For Jacksonville, Stroud's departure frees up the seventh-year player's hefty salary—Stroud is

scheduled to make \$16.5 million in base salary over the final three years of his contract. And it allows the Jaguars to continue retooling a team that finished 11-5 last season, before losing to New England in the AFC divisional playoffs.

The Bills are coming off their second consecutive 7-9 finish and have missed the playoffs eight straight years—the longest drought in franchise history.

Stroud arrived in Buffalo on Friday to meet Bills executives and take a physical. It's not clear whether Stroud's contract will be restructured as part of the deal.

"I had a great run in Jacksonville, but everything runs its course," Stroud said. "Now, it's time to start fresh, having a new beginning, and I want to do it right here in Buffalo."

Stroud is coming off a troubled season that he finished on injured reserve. He missed the final three games after re-injuring his surg-

ically repaired right ankle, an injury that hobbled him at the end of the 2006 season.

Stroud also served a four-game NFL suspension for violating the league's steroids and related substances policy. He acknowledged taking supplements to help recover from the ankle operation.

"That's all last year, it's already in the past," Stroud said.

Jacksonville's 2001 first-round draft pick out of Georgia, Stroud played an integral role in helping the Jaguars defense become one of the stingiest—especially against the run—over the past few years. Stroud had three sacks last season and 22 overall in 100 games.

This marks the second straight year the Bills have made a significant splash in free agency. Last year, Buffalo focused on bolstering its offensive line, signing guard Derrick Dockery and tackle Langston Walker to contracts worth a combined

games and was benched the last two weeks.

Faneca will step in between left tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson and center Nick Mangold to give the Jets a terrific left side. Ferguson and Mangold thrived as rookies with Kendall, but struggled at times without his veteran influence last season.

"Alan can't wait to work with those guys," Smith said. "He likes to take young guys under his wing and help them develop."

Faneca's presence will surely improve the Jets' rushing game, which struggled despite having Thomas Jones. New York ranked 26th in the league last season in total yards and 19th in rushing yards per game.

"Alan is really looking forward to being a New York Jet," Smith said.

Faneca, a five-time All-Pro who was Pittsburgh's first-round pick in 1998, experienced a similar situation to Kendall last summer. Known as "Red" because of his long, flowing red hair, Faneca was unhappy before last season because he thought the Steelers misled him during contract talks last winter when he was looking for a new deal.

Meanwhile, guards such as Leonard Davis, Kris Dielman, Derrick Dockery and Eric Steinbach all signed big deals last offseason that were worth at least \$6 million.

Faneca, who helped Jerome Bettis and Willie Parker rush for 1,000 yards during his tenure, was critical of ownership when he reported for minicamp last May and even announced then: "This will be my last year as a Pittsburgh Steeler."

As it turned out, Faneca

was right, and he couldn't be happier now.

"He can finally put that black cloud that was hanging over him last season behind him," Smith said.

The Jets have been active in the two days since the free agency period began. In addition to signing Faneca, they

acquired three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle Kris Jenkins from Carolina, traded linebacker Jonathan Vilma to New Orleans for a draft pick, signed defensive tackle Sione Pouha to a contract extension and signed fullback Stacy Tutt to an exclusive-rights contract.

Niners bolster pass rush with DE Smith

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—The San Francisco 49ers signed free-agent defensive end Justin Smith on Saturday in a move they hope will bolster their pass rush.

Smith, the No. 4 overall pick by Cincinnati in 2001, had 43 1/2 sacks in seven seasons with the Bengals and was one of the top pass rushers available on the free agent market this season. His deal is reportedly for six years and is worth \$45 million, including \$20 million in guarantees.

After meeting with the 49ers coaching staff and taking a helicopter tour of San Francisco, Smith decided to cancel planned visits to Minnesota and Jacksonville and sign with the 49ers instead.

"The reason I decided to cancel my other visits is meeting with the coaching staff here," Smith said. "From top to bottom it's a first-class organization and when you get in a situation like that it's a no-brainer. I think I'll be a great fit."

The Niners were tied for 21st in the NFL last season with only 31 sacks. Bryant Young, who led the team with 6 1/2 sacks, retired after the season leaving a big void at end.

Johnson's signing was over-

shadowed by Stroud's arrival.

Listed at 6-foot-3 and 286 pounds, Johnson has spent the past four seasons with the Vikings. He played in all 16 games this past season, finishing with 24 tackles and three sacks. In 49 career NFL games, Johnson has 108 tackles and four sacks.

The Bills might not be done adding players, yet. Free-agent receiver Bryant Johnson and tight end Ben Troupe are both scheduled to visit with the Bills on Sunday, according to their agent, Joel Segal.

The Niners have been busy so far in the free agency season after going 5-11 last season, signing receiver Isaac Bruce and kick returner Alen Rossum.

76ers win first in Phoenix in 6 years



PHOENIX (AP)—Andre Iguodala scored 32 points, and the Philadelphia 76ers held on to beat the Suns in Phoenix for the first time in six years, 119-114 on Saturday night.

Andre Miller added 25 points and 12 assists for the 76ers, who shot 57 percent after being blown out at Golden State 119-97 on Friday night. Willie Green scored 17, including three crucial free throws in the final 18.2 seconds.

Louis Williams added 13, including a 3-pointer and breakaway layup in the final 1:10.

The Suns lost consecutive home games for the first time this season to fall to 2-4 since Shaquille O'Neal joined the lineup.

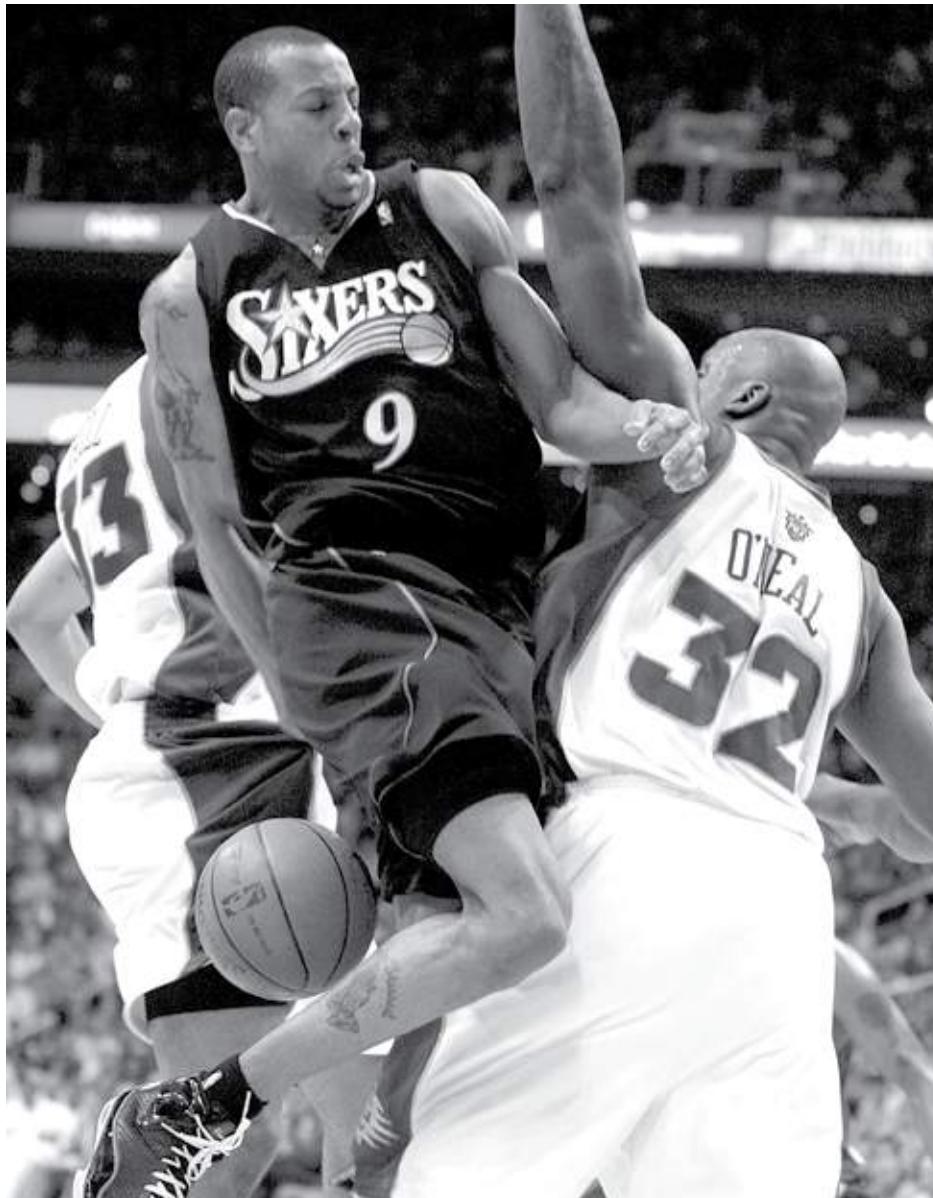
Amare Stoudemire had 26 points and Leandro Barbosa scored 22 for Phoenix. Steve Nash had 21 points and 11 assists and after a tough game triggered a late rally that cut the lead to 116-114 with nine seconds to go.

The 76ers led most of the night in snapping a five-game losing streak in Phoenix. Their last victory on the Suns' court came on Jan. 2, 2002.

Iguodala, a collegiate standout at Arizona, made a 50-footer from beyond halfcourt at the third quarter buzzer to put the 76ers ahead for good 83-81. That started a 15-2 run that put Philadelphia up 95-83 with 7:21 to play on a 19-footer by Williams.

The lead reached 103-87 on Iguodala's 18-footer with 4:52 to play.

Nash scored nine points on three free throws and a pair of 3-pointers, the last with 18.2 seconds left, to cut it to 115-112. But Raja Bell was called for a foul before Philadelphia got the ball



116-114 with 10 seconds left. But Green made two more free throws, then Bell threw the ball away, the Suns' 18th turnover. Miller's two free throws at 6.3 seconds finally sealed it.

The Suns shot 27 percent in the first quarter and trailed by as many as 12 early before their 36-point second quarter, led by Boris Diaw's 13, left the game tied at 54 at the half. Iguodala and Miller each scored 12 in the first half for Philadelphia.

The 76ers used a 9-0 spurt to take a 74-64 lead on Iguodala's 3-pointer with 4:53 to go in the third, but Phoenix responded with 15-2 run to go up 79-76 with 1:01 to go in the period.

Jazz 113, Grizzlies 92

At Memphis, Tenn., Deron Williams had 19 assists and scored 13 points, and the Utah Jazz sent the Memphis Grizzlies to their eighth straight loss.

Magic 118, Knicks 92

At Orlando, Fla., Dwight Howard had 26 points and 22 rebounds to help short-handed the Magic beat New York.

Spurs 96 Bucks 94

At Milwaukee, Manu Ginobili scored 30 points and hit a 17-footer with 13.2 seconds left

Yao opts for surgery on fractured foot

HOUSTON (AP)—Yao Ming will have surgery to repair a stress fracture in his left foot, Houston Rockets officials said Saturday.

The surgery will be performed Monday in Houston by Rockets team doctor Tom Clanton. The team announced the All-Star center's injury on Tuesday and said he would get a second opinion before deciding whether to have the surgery.

Clanton said last week that the surgery would involve placing screws across the bone to hold it together with a recovery time of about four months. The second option was to treat it with a cast and crutches.

Clanton also said last week that he doesn't expect the injury to keep Yao from playing for China in the Olympics in Beijing in August.

The Rockets have won 14 straight games, including the two since Yao has been injured.

Yao was averaging 22 points and 10.8 rebounds this season.

to give San Antonio a victory over the Milwaukee Bucks, the Spurs' eighth straight victory.

Pistons 103, Clippers 73

At Los Angeles, Tayshaun Prince had 22 points and 10 assists, and Detroit beat the Clippers for the 11th straight time.

Isiah waffles on Marbury return

NEW YORK (AP)—Isiah Thomas thinks the Knicks' season would have been much different if Stephon Marbury had been around.

And yet, Thomas seems ready to move on without his point guard next season.

A day after finally seeming to confirm that Marbury won't play again this season, Thomas said Wednesday the Knicks will go into 2008-09 needing a third guard to play with Jamal Crawford and Nate Robinson.

But when asked if that player could be Marbury, who will still be under contract for nearly \$21 million, Thomas quickly tried to change the subject, saying, "Let's discuss next year when this year's over."

It almost is already for the Knicks.

The Knicks entered their game against Charlotte 71/2 games out of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. But Thomas believes New York would be much closer if Marbury had played more than 24 games.

"I think that goes without saying. Without a doubt, yeah," Thomas said. "He's a good player, he's a quality player. The things that he was capable of doing out on the floor and the things that he does out of on the floor, he's a threat. You have to guard him and he's a capable of winning you some games."

"So if was healthy and not had such an emotional year and would have had the same type of year that he had last

year, I think it's safe to say that we probably would have won five to six more games here and be right in the thick of things."

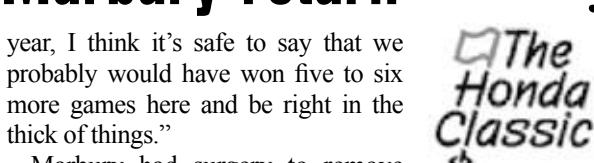
Marbury had surgery to remove spurs in his left ankle on Jan. 22 and the Knicks have only said he is out indefinitely. Thomas referred after practice Tuesday to the Knicks having "a major player in terms of an injury go out for the season," though never specifically used Marbury's name. However, none of New York's other important players are hurt.

Marbury is averaging 13.9 points during the worst season of his career and has had a variety of reasons for his absences. He skipped a game in Phoenix in November after a disagreement with Thomas, then sat out 10 games following his father's death early in December.

He returned to play six games before having surgery—which the Knicks said was Marbury's choice.

Thomas rarely even talks about Marbury, though the two were once close. But even while trying to back away from the comments about Marbury being out for the year, Thomas did acknowledge how much his former star is missed.

"I don't even want to say a small chance because tomorrow's headlines will say 'Steph's coming back,'" Thomas said. "So we'll see what the doctors say (but) we did lose a quality player."



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP)—Luke Donald made a quadruple bogey earlier this week. Mark Calcavecchia whiffed on a chip Saturday. Bad mistakes? Absolutely. But to win at PGA National, one must overcome blunders, which Donald and Calcavecchia have done with ease.

Donald shot a 4-under 66 on Saturday, Calcavecchia finished with 67, and the two former Honda Classic champions wound up tied with Matt Jones (71) atop the leaderboard at PGA National. All three were at 6 under, one shot better than Brian Davis (73) and Jose Caceres (68), who lost a four-way playoff at PGA National a year ago.

"There's a lot of danger out there," Donald said. "There's some very daunting shots, a lot of scary shots with a lot of water around. So you have to really stand up there and hit good, solid shots."

He's hit plenty of those.

A bogey-free 64 on Thursday started him on his way, but the quadruple—an 8 on the 14th hole Friday—knocked him well off the pace. He has been flawless from there, with five birdies and no bogeys in the 22 holes since.

"Obviously, other than that, I've played very solid this week," said Donald, who won the 2006 Honda at Mirasol.

Calcavecchia's game has been just as good.

He made a bogey on the second hole Saturday when his drive nestled against a palm tree, and he decided to take a left-handed whack to advance the ball a few yards. But he missed everything, and eventually made what had to be described as a good bogey.

It was his only mistake.

The two-time Honda winner (1987, 1998) birdied the next two holes, connected again at the par-4 12th, and made nothing but pars the rest of the day.

"It'd be pretty special to win a tour event three miles from your driveway," said Calcavecchia, who'll defend his title next week at the PODS Championship and who splits his time between homes in South Florida and Arizona. "I've done it in Phoenix, winning three different decades. So that'd be pretty neat too. I'm sure I'll be nervous tomorrow."

Chances are, so will Jones, whether the smooth-swinging Australian will acknowledge it or not.

The tour rookie is 6-for-6 in cuts this season, with four finishes in the top 30 so far. The Nationwide Tour graduate has never had a chance like this, but showed he might be ready for the big time by making birdie on his final hole Saturday to pull into the three-way tie.

"I'm looking forward to it," Jones said. "It'll be exciting. If I hit the ball the way I did today, should be fine."

Those three are hardly the only ones with an opportunity Sunday.

Ben Crane (71), Dudley Hart (72) and Cliff Kresge (66) were two shots back, Ernie Els and Robert Allenby were in a group of five players sitting three shots off the lead, and in all, a whopping 25 players were within five strokes of first place.

Els birdied three of his first four holes, all from 8 feet or less and including a tap-in on the opening hole, to make an early charge. The world's No. 4 player then followed it with two bogeys in a four-hole stretch before making the turn, continuing the up-and-down trend that besets many at PGA National.

"It's about staying patient and seeing every shot, one at a time, and just kind of hitting solid shots," Donald said. "I mean, this is a golf course where you can't get away with much."

Among those five shots back: Aron Oberholser, bad shoulder and all.

Oberholser, who will head to Minnesota for further examination of his long-injured shoulder after the final round, shot Saturday's low round, a 65. He could have matched Donald's low round of the tournament, but missed a 2 1/2-foot birdie try after his approach hit the pin on the final hole.

"A 65, for the way I feel, feels like a 60," said Oberholser, who has tried for months to get the shoulder problem correctly diagnosed and doesn't plan to play again until the CA Championship at Doral. "I feel like about half of what I normally am right now."

Realtors, Giants play for all the marbles in Game 7

MANILA, Philippines—Sta. Lucia and Purefoods will put an end to a classic series that has had its share of off-court drama when they clash Sunday in Game 7 of the Smart PBA Philippine Cup series at the Araneta Coliseum.

The series has provided soap opera-like sidelights for all the fans to see and read with players, team managers, board members, technical chiefs and even the commissioner all involved in a title playoff to remember.

But from 6:30 Sunday night,

the Realtors and the Tender Juicy Giants will slug it out for the most coveted crown of all. “It doesn’t matter whether we win it right away or take the long route,” Sta. Lucia coach Boyet Fernandez, who flubbed the first of two chances he has to wrap it up, said after losing Game 6 and being dragged into this rubber match.

“At least, the pressure is now off.”

Officiating will also take centerstage—even with the league’s

technical chief on leave—as this has been the subject of so much criticism not only from the teams involved.

History—and momentum—is on the side of the Giants, who hope to become the latest team to ever come back from a 0-2 deficit to win a best-of-seven series.

But this one will be special than even the 1-3 deficit they wiped out against Alaska in a

semifinal pairing two years ago.

“We are highly-motivated because we are coming off a 0-2 start and we were able to prevail in spite of all the distractions,” Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio told the Inquirer over the phone.

“Just to be able to play in a Game 7 under all the circumstances is a great blessing.”

Purefoods was written off as a goner after dropping the first two games. But the Giants bounced back and tied it up after

four games only to go down a game again after the controversial suspension on James Yap.

Yap returned and provided all the difference for the Giants in Game 6, shooting 20 of his 30 points in the fourth period to help his team seal this final showdown.

And it was a performance which Fernandez just dismissed as their error “for failing to recognize the shooter.” It was, how-

ever, a strange error on the part of the Realtors considering that Yap has always donned the go-to-guy mantle for Purefoods.

The 6-foot-2 MVP in 2006 hit five triples in the fourth, two of them inside the first two minutes, before he burned the Realtors further with baskets coming from almost everywhere.

Sta. Lucia also self-destructed when the going got rough, with Kelly Williams held below twin digits for the first time in 26 games and Nelbert Omolon going scoreless. (PDI)



REZNE-SARAH

From Page 28

but it's all good since they always raise the level of competition.”

Johnson, swimming out of the more established Saipan Swim Club, was the top female swimmer in the 2,500m distance. She won the girls' 15-19 division after emerging from the surf in a time of 38:06.

The Saipan International School stalwart said yesterday's ocean was a bit wavy on the way back and like Wong, welcomed the participation of the four teams from Guam—Manukau, Tarakito, Typhoons, and Tsunami Guam.

Finishing second to Johnson

in her age group was a pair of Manukai swimmers Vicky Ysrael (40:32) and Asia Oshiro (40:57).

In the 13-14 age group 2.5-km swim, Nicky Moreno of Manukai topped the girls with her 41:48, followed by Typhoons' Ashley Baker, 47:40, and teammate Olivia Stiker, 47:46.

The boys' 13-14 age group saw a 1-2-3 finish by SSC, as Kai Staal, 40:29; Lester Lapuz, 40:55; and Michael Moran, 43:57; swept the division for the hosts.

Five other divisions had 2,500m swims. Adeana Shendal finished the race in 47:29 to top the 30-39 division. Dawn Hammermeister was tops in the women's 40-49 with her 53:10, while Dirk Sharer was *numero uno* in the men's 40-49 by fin-

ishing it in 44:29.

Carol Lynn Cabalong-Pierce and SSC president Michael Johnson topped their respective divisions in the 50-59 age group, completing the 2.5-km swim in 44:17 and 58:26, respectively.

In the shorter distances, Danielle Atoigue of Manukai ruled the girls' 600m swim (14:13), while Kaito Yanai of Tsunami Saipan did the same in the boy's side (16:55).

Cora McClelland of Typhoons was without peer in the girls' 9-10 1,000m swim (19:19) with Maxi Braig of SSC topping the boys with his 17:38.

Benjie Schulte of Tarakito finished first in the boys' 11-12 1,300m swim (18:22) with Grace Kimball of SSC topping

the girls race in the same age group (20:45).

Crystal Pierson of SSC came in first in the 1,300m swim for 20-29 year-olds with her time of 29:59, while Mike Blasberg of Tarakito topped the men's division with his 28:18.

SSC's Karen Klassen was without equal in the women's 30-39 of the 1,300m race (33:53) with Ken Pierson topping the men's division (27:17).

SSC's Patty Stall (26:55), Tarakito's Pepe LaFlamme (19:51), Suzy Kindell (25:41), Manny Sitchon (28:57), Tarakito's Greg Shulte (30:51), and SSC's Willem "Bill" Sakovitch (25:54) also topped their respective age groups in the 1.3-km swim.

SSC

From Page 28

top swimmer in the Under-12 girls' with 64 points, while SSC's Grace Kimball came a distant second with 56 and Yuichi Kikuchi of Tsunami Guam placed third with 50 markers.

Tsunami Guam's Kazuki Ariayos ran away with the boys'

11-12 title with 67 points followed by the 55 and 52 made by Manukai's Rio Oshiro and Typhoon's Robbie Baughman.

Marystar Welch gave Tsunami Saipan its first individual title, collecting 63 points to claim the 13-14 girls' crown, while Niki Moreno of Manukai had 46 to place second and Typhoon's Taylor Ronnow had 39 to come in third.

Ronnow beat Typhoon teammate Katie Green by two points.

Kai Staal had 72 points to enjoy a 22.5 lead over runner-up A.J. Sholing, 49.5, of Manukai in the boys' 13-14 division. Michael Moran of SSC placed third with 47 markers.

Sarah Johnson topped the girls' under-18 division with 70 points followed by Manukai's Vicky Ysrael, 60, and the 48 made by

Typhoon's Genevieve Baker.

SSC's Selyna Leon Guerrero was two points short of claiming third place after amassing 46 in the two-day contest.

Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong completed the individual winners when he topped the boys class with 72 points followed by Tarakito's Lucas Shimizu's 59 and the 53 made by teammate Trevor Plate.

KHS

From Page 28

the finals of the 1,500m event with Kagman crossing the finish line in 9:19.69 followed by MHS' 9:54.58 and the 10:32.53 of SSHS. Mt. Carmel timed in

at 10:42.70.

The Ayuyus also topped the 500m finals with a personal best time of 2:43.90, shaving off 15.93 seconds to their previous record of 2:59.83 they set last Feb. 16, the beginning of the high school canoe racing season.

MHS placed second with a

time of 2:52.03, while Mt. Carmel nosed out Saipan Southern to place third. The Knights clocked in 2:56.73 against the 2:59.72 by the Rays.

In the girls' division, the Lady Dolphins accumulated 28 points followed by the Lady Knights' 20. The Lady Ayuyus had eight,

while the Lady Rays collected seven markers.

The Mt. Carmel girls began the day by finishing first in the preliminary round of the 1,500m race with a time of 11:11.85, but could not sustain their momentum heading into the finals.

MHS made up from their second place finish in the preliminary by topping the 1,500m finals with a time of 11:18.04 followed by Mt. Carmel's 11:26.30.

Kagman came in third with 11:56.48, but was disqualified, giving five points to Saipan Southern, 12:50.21.

MHS also proved to be the best in the sprints topping the 500m event with a 3:27.29 finish followed by Mt. Carmel's 3:31.60 record and the 3:34.53 time of Kagman. Saipan Southern, 3:50.18, completed the finishers.

Among the four teams, the Lady Rays had the most improvement with their time, slashing 23.66 seconds from their previous record of 4:13.84 they set last Feb. 16 in the 500m event.

The high school races return after two weeks as the adults take the course to practice for the Tinian Crossing scheduled on May 3 and 4.



JON PEREZ

In the final game of the day, Fanians swept No Fear, 25-17, 25-23, 16-14.

Results of the women's division games were not available as of this writing. Beach Jammers played against Ta Chagi, while Pikan Gaga faced YoYo's last Thursday.

Games tomorrow in the men's division will feature CH-Hammer against Mas Numel'u in the 6pm opener followed by the Ol'Aces-No Fear 7pm second game.

In the third game, Beach Jammers will face Islanders while Fanians close out the day when they face Home Boyz at 9pm. In the women's division, Seikid clashes with Ta Chagi while Beach Jammers battle YoYo's at 7pm.

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 118, New York 92
Utah 113, Memphis 92
San Antonio 96, Milwaukee 94
Philadelphia 119, Phoenix 114
Detroit 103, L.A. Clippers 73

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONDA CLASSIC SCORES

Third Round

	W	L	Pct	GB
Luke Donald	64	74	.66	204
Mark Calcavecchia	70	67	.57	204
Matt Jones	66	67	.51	204
Jose Caceres	68	69	.58	205
Brian Davis	65	67	.50	205
Ben Crane	69	66	.71	206
Dudley Hart	68	66	.72	206
Cliff Kresge	70	71	.66	207
Michael Letzig	70	69	.68	207
Brett Quigley	67	70	.50	207
Ernie Els	67	70	.50	207
Robert Allenby	69	68	.70	207
Roland Thatcher	68	73	.47	208
Tim Wilkinson	67	74	.47	208
Kenneth Ferrie	69	72	.47	208
Alex Cejka	69	71	.48	208
Carl Pettersson	72	66	.70	208
John Mallinger	68	67	.73	208
Arion Oberholser	69	75	.45	209
Mathew Goggin	71	70	.68	209
John Merrick	72	69	.68	209
Nathan Green	71	70	.68	209
Kenny Perry	73	67	.59	209
Matt Kuchar	73	67	.59	209

PF-Points scored by team

PA-Points scored against team

SW-Sets won

NMIVA Indoor Standings

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Menudo	10	3	809	669	30
Fanians	8	4	729	656	24
No Fear	8	4	740	686	20
Ol'Aces	8	4	711	692	20
Islanders	7	6	751	750	19
Home Boyz	6	7	733	768	19
CH-Hammer	6	7	757	755	18
Beach Jammers	2	10	658	742	11
Ma Numel'u	1	11	600	768	7

PF-Points scored by team

PA-Points scored against team

SW-Sets won

Govt Softball Standings

	W	L	PF	PA	SW

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BoS wins Thursday Night League

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bank of Saipan won the 23rd season of the PBA-CBC Thursday Night League and team members were awarded their championship trophy last Feb. 28 at the Capital Bowling Center.

BoS won the title after finishing the season that concluded last Feb. 21 with a 51-25 win-loss record. It was followed in the standings by Century Insurance (47.5-28.5), PTI-Dolphin (47-29), STAXX (46-30), and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan (45.5-30.5).

Players led by team captain Ramir De Leon extended their appreciation to Bank of Saipan president and CEO Jon "J.B." Bergfrede for supporting their Thursday Night League team from the onset.

"They've always been supportive and we are dedicating this championship to them," said De Leon in a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Aside from the help of BoS, De Leon also attributed to Lady Luck and the players working together as the secrets of the team's success.

He said BoS struggled in the first round of the Thursday Night League, but they persevered and just kept on plugging and their hard work paid off at the start of the second round, where they put together impressive strings of



MARK RABAGO

Team captain Ramir De Leon and players Greg Abrihan, Richie Dumla, Ronald Epan, Ronald Fuellas, Bernard Paraiso, Hector Sevilla, Jojo Santos, and Randy Abreau pose with their championship trophy during the awards ceremony of the 23rd season of the PBA-CBC Thursday Night League last Feb. 28 at the Capital Bowling Center.

4-0 records against their opponents.

De Leon said the Thursday Night League is the first ever championship for the team. The champion BoS team in the Thursday Night League was

also made up of Greg Abrihan, Richie Dumla, Ronald Epan, Ronald Fuellas, Bernard Paraiso, Hector Sevilla, Jojo Santos, and Randy Abreau.

In the special individual awards, El-

ena Soll of Fiesta Resort won the ladies high average with her 167.05 pinfall norm per game.

The most improved bowler went to Paraiso for the men after he hiked his

Panuelo is among batting and pitching leaders

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Dolorina Panuelo is one reason why the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is leading the women's division of the Inter-Government Slow-pitch Softball League.

CUC currently holds a league-best 7-1 record followed by Public School System's 6-1 mark and the 3-4 slate of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Finance has a 1-7 card while Commonwealth Health Center has yet to win after four games.

Panuelo is among the top batting

and pitching leaders, placing second in both categories. She holds a .808 batting average or going 21-for-26, second best only to DCCA's Doris Rangamar's .810 record.

Three other CUC batters made it to the Top 5 with Roquita Norita ending up in third place (.750) followed by Kuki Pangelinan (.680) and Pauline Camacho (.615).

DCCA's Bert Camacho placed sixth (.609) while CUC's Dolores Yanneris (.583) and Samarina Simiram (.565) came in seventh and eighth. Nadia Saralu of DCCA (.542) and Finance's Liz Lebira (.524) complete the Top 10.

Rounding out the top batters are Angela Ngirbedul (.520) and Lorna Igi-

noef, Julie Guerrero, and Lilian Aguon, who all batted .500.

CUC's Pauline Camacho also had the most runs scored with 16 and had six doubles to her credit.

Kuki Pangelinan and Jeanette Ngircheungel scored 15 runs each to place second to Camacho, while Jennifer Palacios and Rangamar had five apiece to remain within striking distance of the CUC slugger.

Ngirbedul had the most triples with five followed by Aguon's four, while Thelma Mizer had already whacked five home runs followed by the four each of Joyce Taro and Dolores Yanneris.

Panuelo is joined by Ngircheungel to

lead the league in RBIs with 18 each, while Mizer had 17 under her name.

DCCA's Jovie Omar is currently the top pitcher giving up only 39 earned runs on 67 hits for a 9.10 ERA after five games and 30 innings.

Panuelo is in close second after holding a 7-1 win-loss record after eight games and 36 innings later allowed 48 earned runs on 96 hits for a 9.33 ERA.

PSS' Felisa Brel is in third with a 9.75 ERA and a 4-1 record. She gave up 39 runs on 78 hits in 28 innings of pitching on the mound.

Panuelo also leads the league in strikeouts with 17 followed by DCCA's Camacho with 16 and the 15 made by Omar.

FMI Inter-Color Basketball to start

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Fresh from competing in the recently concluded 2007-2008 Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League, Friends of the Mariana Islands is now looking to host its own round ball competition.

Coordinator Boy Garcia said eight teams have already signified their intention to join the open division of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League. The competition will also include a 40-and-over division.

Garcia said six of the eight teams already have names and they are: Price Costco, Bayani, Tasi Tours, SMF, PTI, and Blue House.

He said the league will be played at the Construction and Material Supply basketball court in Gualo Rai and will have three play dates every week—Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Wednesday and Saturday's schedule will have two



The Friends of the Mariana Islands team that competed in the recent 2007-2008 Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League pose for a photo.

games, starting at 6:30pm and 8pm, while the Sunday schedule will have an earlier start time for its two games, 5pm and 6:30pm.

Garcia said hopefully participating teams will have uniforms by the time the league starts in a couple of weeks. Entry fee is \$500.

For more information about the Inaugural FMI Inter-

Color Basketball League, call Garcia at 233-0802.

The FMI team in the Bud Cup was sponsored by PTI. It was coached by Garcia with Cris Calub serving as his top lieutenant. The team was made up of guards Bernard Aquino, Mike Umali, Jun Tabora, and James Abuy, forwards Leo Factor, Darwin Barbo, and Ryan Sanciangco, and centers Marlon De Dios and Edmark Mendoza.

average by 36 pins, while Carol McKenzie of DFS was without peer among the women after improving her average by 8.04 pins.

High game scratch belonged to Lito Teodoro of The Fighter (277) followed by Kitz Barja of STAXX and Mario Mayuga of PTI Dolphin (tied at 267). Ron Cal of Pacific Home Appliances was tops among the women with her 226.

High game with handicap was won by Orly Ebuen of Pacific Home Appliances (298) with Teodoro finishing second this time (296). Cal again did wonders in the women's side with her 256.

Raymond Zapanta of Century Insurance and Richard Leong of STAXX finished 1-2 in the high series scratch with their scores of 729 and 704, respectively. Cal topped the women's division again with her 597.

Teodoro ruled the high series with handicap after logging in 755, followed by the 747 of Madrilejos. Cal formalized her sweep of the women's special awards with her 687 in the high series with handicap.

For the special team awards, Century Insurance won the high game scratch (1,085), high series scratch (3,092), and high series with handicap (3,287). The only category that escaped their grasp was the high game with handicap that went to BoS (1,162).

A total of 12 teams took part in the competition. The others were PSG Insurance/REA, Localz, Royal Crown, and BYE.

The 23rd season of the Thursday Night League was sponsored by Capital Bowling Center and organized by the Philippine Bowling Association.

Top Pool bar 8-ball moved to Thursday



Top Pool Bar has moved its Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament from Sunday to Thursday, according to the sports bar and watering hole's owner and manager Zheng Jian Qing.

Like the Sunday tournament, the Thursday competition will have a double-elimination format and entrance fee is still \$10 per player. The 8-ball competition uses a double-elimination format. Both tournaments follow Billiards Congress of America rules.

Zheng thus is inviting Saipan's elite billiards players to take part in the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament this coming Thursday, March 6.

The Top Pool Bar Professional 9-Ball Billiards Tournament, meanwhile, will continue this Saturday night, March 8. Registration for both tournaments starts at 7pm.

The sports bar is also reminded interested 8- and 9-ball players that early birds get a chance to practice for free on any of Top Pool Bar's full-size billiard tables an hour before the competition. Top Pool Bar, located along Hotel Street Garapan a stone's throw away from the Paseo de Marianas, is as spacious as it is modern and boasts of two 9-1/2-by-5-foot tables usually found in professional tournaments abroad.

For more information on the ongoing 9-ball weekly competition and the moved 8-ball, call Zheng at 287-7676 or check out the competition's website at www.saipanero.com/bars/toppoolbar. (Mark Rabago)



BoS win Thursday Night League

Bank of Saipan won the 23rd season of the PBA-CBC Thursday Night League and team members were awarded their championship trophy last Feb. 28 at the Capital Bowling Center.

27

Saipan Tribune Sports

28 MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

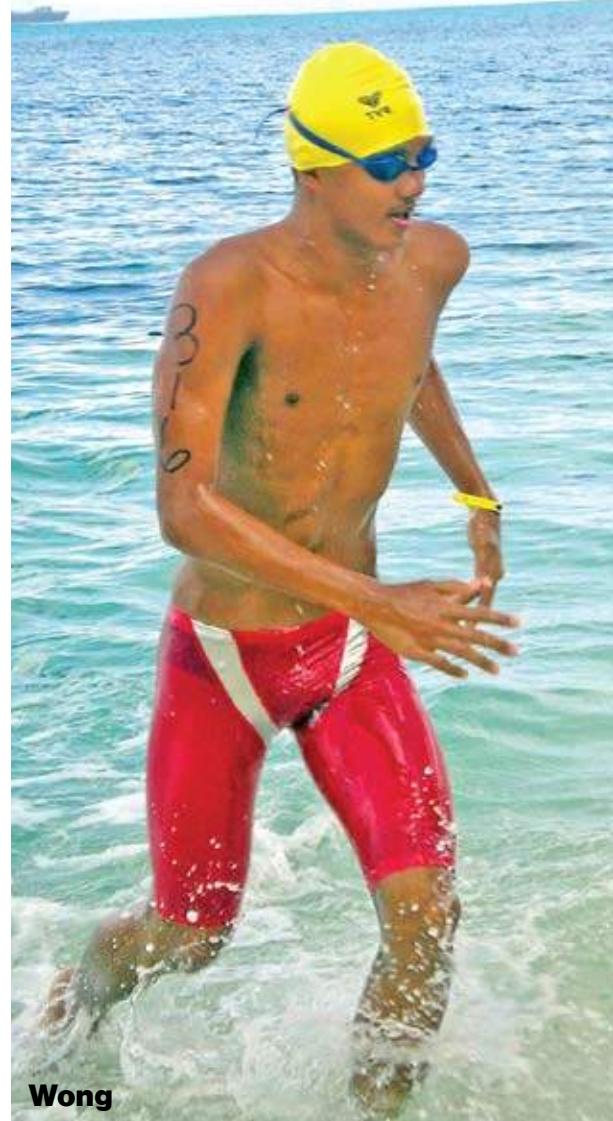
Jets give All-Pro guard Faneca big deal

The New York Jets and Pro Bowl left guard Alan Faneca agreed to terms on a five-year, \$40 million contract Saturday, making the former Pittsburgh player the highest-paid offensive lineman in the NFL.

24



Rezne-Sarah show in ocean swim



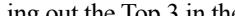
Wong

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saiyan tankers Rezne Wong and Sarah Johnson topped the 2,500-meter distance of the 30th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim yesterday in the waters off the Saipan World Resort beach.

Wong, swimming for Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan, was the first out

of the water in the 2.5-kilometer race with a splendid time of 34:43. Teammate Shin Kimura came in less than two minutes later, crossing the makeshift finish line in 36:37. Round-



ing out the Top 3 in the boys' 15-19 division was Lucas Shimizeu of Tarakito Guam, 36:48.

Johnson



Johnson

Wong said he was pretty happy with his time, but was more elated that swimmers from Guam came up to Saipan to take part in the ocean swim as well as the Saipan International Meet.

"It's always great to have swimmers from Guam coming to Saipan to take part in competition," said the 16-year-old Marianas High School student. "I was actually surprised they came this year

See REZNE-SARAH on Page 26

After two days of swimming competitions, the Saipan Swim Club emerged as the champion in the 2008 International Invitational Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

JON PEREZ
Guam's Trevor's of Tarakito Swim Club swims in the boys' 200m butterfly in Saturday's 2008 International Invitational Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

while Manukai collected 141.50. The Typhoon topped the girls' division, beating SSC by three points, 363-360. Manukai was a distant third with 315, while Tarakito had 127 followed by the 119 of Tsunami Guam and the 94 made by Tsunami Saipan.

Among the individual winners, 8-year-olds Danielle Atoique of Manukai and Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanai led their respective age groups. Atoique collected 63 points while Yanai had 55.

The Typhoon's Samantha Reid, 23, and SSC's Cristine Astibe, 21, completed the girls' Top 3 finishers, while Tsunami Guam's Kai Aricayos, 51, and Manukai's Jacob Oshiro, 37, duplicated their feat in the boys side.

Ten-year-old Hiroko Watanabe of Tsunami Guam had 69 points, while Typhoon's Cora McClelland and Taloani Atoique placed second and third with 53 markers each.

Shawn Fuji of Tsunami Guam topped the 10-and-under boys with 72 points, beating SSC's Maxi Braig, 49, and Andrew Kimball, 48.

Tarakito's Pilar Shimizu became the *See SSC on Page 26*

KHS and MHS leading high school race

The Kagman High School Ayuyus make a turn in the 1,500m event in the boys division of Saturday's high school outrigger canoe races at Kilili Beach.

JON PEREZ



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The high school teams of the Kagman Ayuyus and Marianas Dolphins are currently leading the pack after Saturday's race held in the waters off Kilili Beach in the 2008 High School

Outrigger Canoe season.

After two Saturdays, the Ayuyus collected 28 points after a first place finish in the 1,500m event and placing second fiddle to MHS in the 500m of the boys division.

MHS is in second place with 20 points followed by the nine each by Saipan Southern and Mt. Carmel.

The Kagman boys topped the prelim-

inary heat with a time of nine minutes and 38.37 seconds, which was nearly a 30-second lead over runner up MHS' 10:07.16 record.

The Saipan Southern Manta Rays, 10:24.97, and the Mt. Carmel Knights, 10:38.33, complete the preliminary round times.

The standings did not change after

See KHS on Page 26

Menudo goes down fighting

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Menudo went down fighting against Ol'Aces, suffering a 25-23, 19-25, 8-15 loss against their opponents in Thursday night's action in the men's division of the 2007-2008 Indoor Volleyball Winter League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Despite the loss, Menudo remains on top of the nine-team field with a league-best 10-3 record while the win created a three-way tie for second place between Fanians, No Fear, and Ol'Aces.

All three teams hold an 8-4 mark followed by the Islanders' 7-6 card and the 6-7 slate of Home Boyz and CH-Hammer. Beach Jammers, 2-10, and Mas Numel'u, 1-11, complete

OL'ACES
Menudo vs. Ol'Aces

See MENUDO on Page 26

the standings.

Menudo used its power hitting and great defensive blocking at the net to hold on to win a tightly fought first set, 25-23.

But Ol'Aces won't go down without a fight and worked for every point in the second set to pull even and bring the match into a deciding third set.

In the third, the match was tied until midway of the set, but Ol'Aces got the breaks of the game and scored the final points that gave them the win.

CH-Hammer, meanwhile, pulled off a 25-23, 26-24, 8-15 win over Beach Jammers. The win was only the second in seven games for CH-Hammer.

Home Boyz, after snapping a three-game losing skid by scoring back-to-back wins last week, went back to its losing ways when they were handed by Islanders a 22-25, 15-25, 15-12 setback.